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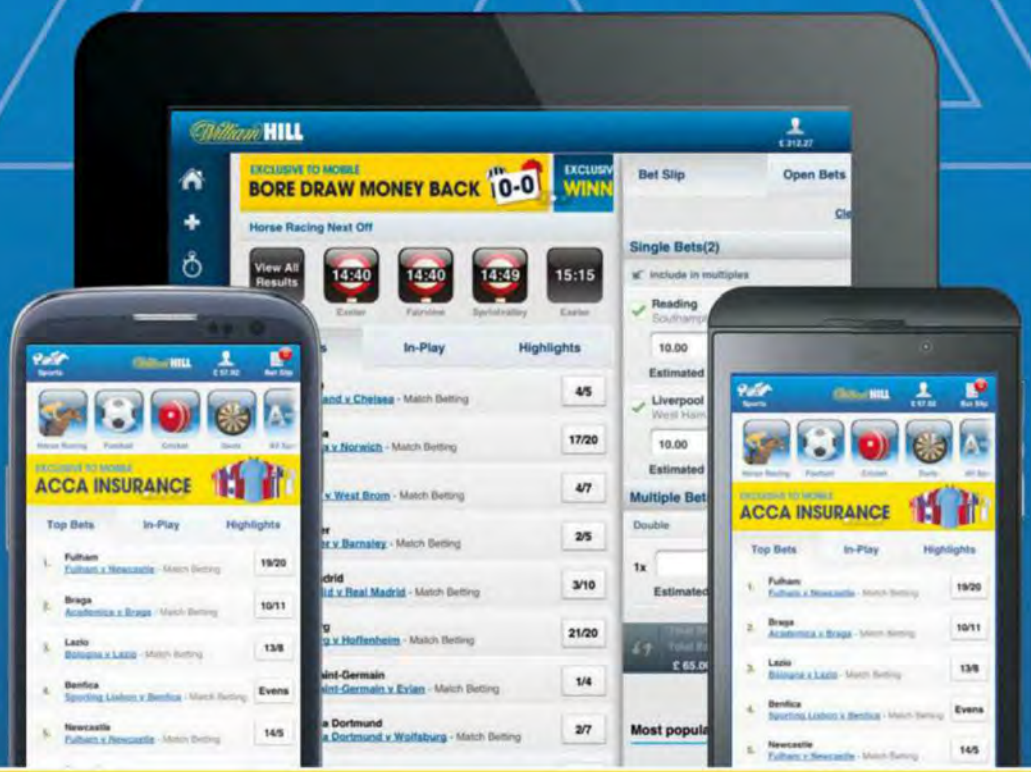


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**The global game caught on camera**

**VENEZUELA...Caracas fans light aerosol cans as they watch their team against Fluminense in the Libertadores Cup**

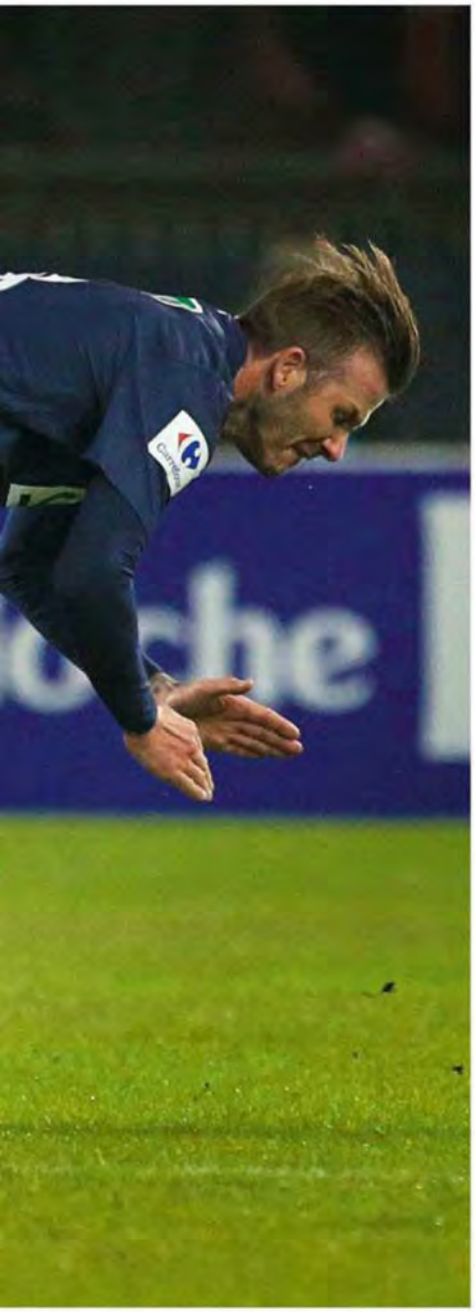
RUSSIA...Zenit's wall prepares to defend a Liverpool free-kick during a Europa League game tie in St Petersburg

SWITZERLAND...Basle (in red and blue) host Dnipro in the Europa League at a snowbound St Jakob-Park

FRANCE...Marseille's Joey Barton welcomes English counterpart David Beckham (right) to French football with a crunching challenge on the former England captain and his new Paris Saint-Germain team-mate Jeremy Menez

MEXICO...Pumas striker Martin Bravo celebrates his goal against Guadalajara

QATAR...Mahir Bakur is happy with his goal for El Jaish against Al Arabi



SPAIN...Manchester United's David De Gea saves with his foot against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Champions League

**PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE**

To see more of the best photos from the month, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the images by logging on to bit.ly/XOGOnp

# FROM THE EDITOR

It's that time of the year when our thoughts turn to the summer transfer market. It's impossible to discuss potential deals without the issue of agents cropping up.

A number of the players in our 100 Most Wanted feature on page 24 – Falcao, Cristiano Ronaldo, Nani – are represented by Jorge Mendes, who also handles the interests of Jose Mourinho, who will be involved in major deals this summer, regardless of whether he stays in Madrid.

> Agents like Jorge Mendes always seem to find ways to help themselves to a slice of the action

The potential for conflict of interest is obvious but FIFA's new "transfer matching system", which aims to introduce transparency to traditionally secretive deals between clubs, will not solve the problem.

In the meantime, FIFA's existing agent-licensing system is being wound down – and criminal gangs are taking advantage, as reported by Steve Menary on page 52.

This could be one of the last transfer summers for third-party transfers, as FIFA threatens to outlaw such deals. But don't hold your breath. The likes of Mendes always seem to find ways to help themselves to a slice of the action.

Next month, we'll name the world's best league – look out for us on news-stands and via the iPad and our other digital editions.

**Gavin Hamilton, Editor**

## 10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH


1. More match-fixing scandals ..... pages 9 and 74
2. Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid win crucial games against Barcelona and Manchester United ..... page 36
3. Eighteenth season of MLS kicks off ..... pages 48 and 94
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6. Juan Roman Riquelme returns for Boca Juniors ..... page 10
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MATCH-FIXING

Under suspicion...Lebanon's Dayoub (left) is fighting to clear his name

# FIFA imposes a worldwide suspension on 132 people; 24 more banned in Lebanon

Football authorities continue to take action against match-fixing, with FIFA imposing global bans on 132 officials and players in China, South Korea and Italy, while 24 players in Lebanon were banned over allegations that international matches were rigged.

Meanwhile, police in Singapore said that Dan Tan, a local businessman who is accused of heading a crime syndicate that has made millions of dollars gambling on fixed matches around the world, had been arrested and was helping them with their enquiries.

### CHINA

Match-fixing bans imposed by the Chinese FA (CFA) on 58 football officials and players have been extended worldwide by FIFA.

The 58 people included two former football chiefs who were jailed in June for accepting bribes in a scandal.

Nan Yong, the former head of Chinese football, was sentenced to 10-and-a-half years for taking bribes worth more than 1.48million yuan (US$237,500), while his predecessor, Xie Yalong, received an identical sentence and

Guilty...referee Lu

"For the past 25 years I have been afraid to show who I really was because of fear that judgment and rejection would hold me back from my dreams and aspirations"

**Former USA international Robbie Rogers comes out as gay shortly after announcing his retirement at the age of 25**

was also fined 200,000 yuan.

Former CFA deputy head Yang Yimin and World Cup referee Lu Jun, once hailed as China's "Golden Whistle", were among the 33 banned from football for life.

Another 25 received a five-year ban from all football activities.

"The cases involved relate to incidents of match-fixing that took place in the 1990s and early 2000s," said a statement from the CFA.

Super League club Shanghai Shenhua, who recently lost big name strikers Didier Drogba and Nicolas Anelka to Galatasaray and Juventus, were fined one million yuan and deducted six points for this season for fixing a game during their 2003 league-winning campaign.

### SOUTH KOREA AND ITALY

Match-fixing bans for 74 players and officials from Italy and South Korea have been extended worldwide by FIFA.

The world governing body said 70 suspensions from the Italian Football Federation, including 11 lifetime bans, had been extended after players and officials were sanctioned for match-fixing in various hearings. It said this involved either a "direct involvement or omission to report match-fixing, illegal betting or corrupt organisation [association to commit illicit acts]".

FIFA said bans have also been extended to four South Koreans.

### LEBANON

The Asian Football Confederation is investigating reports of match-fixing after 24 players, including Lebanon internationals, were suspended over allegations that international and regional games were rigged.

The Lebanese Football Federation announced the punishments and issued lifetime bans on Malaysia-based defender Ramez Dayoub and Indonesia-based forward Mahmoud El-Ali.

The two-month investigation found international fixtures and AFC Cup matches were fixed after interviewing more than 60 witnesses.

Dayoub, who along with Ali was fined US$15,000, denied the allegations and said he would fight to clear his name.

Lebanon coach Theo Bucker says his wife was the first person to raise suspicions about the 1-0 loss to Qatar in a World Cup qualifier.

• *Theo Bucker, Face to Face, page 74*

## HEROES & VILLAINS

**Landmark game...Giggs (right) against Real Madrid**

### RYAN GIGGS

Having passed the 1,000 appearances mark with games for Manchester United, Wales and Team GB's Olympic side, his new contract extension at Old Trafford will take him beyond his 40th birthday.

### MILAN BAROS

The 31-year-old striker, having returned to his first club side, Banik Ostrava, after leaving Turkey's Galatasaray, is putting all of his wages directly into the Czech side's youth system.

### JURGEN LOCADIA

The 19-year-old scored a hat trick for PSV as they beat PEC Zwolle 3-0 to secure a place in the Dutch Cup Final.

**Hat-trick...Locadia**

### MICHAEL LAUDRUP

The Dane guided Welsh club Swansea City to their first major trophy in English football when they beat fourth-tier Bradford City 5-0 in the League Cup Final.

### ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC

Paris Saint-Germain's Swedish attacker was sent off and banned for two Champions League games for a studs-up tackle on Valencia's Andres Guardado.

**Off...Ibrahimovic sees red in the Champions League**

### PHIL SETSHEDI

Clive Barker's assistant when South Africa won the 1996 African Nations Cup was jailed for trying to bribe a referee to influence a domestic promotion play-off game in 2011.

### COURTNEY MEPPEN-WALTER

Manchester City's 18-year-old defender was sentenced to 16 months in jail for causing the death of two people in a car crash.

### NEYMAR

Brazil's golden boy was sent off for the fifth time in his career when he was shown a red card after getting involved in an altercation with Ponte Preta defender Arthur and arguing with the referee during the Paulista state championship match which Santos lost 3-1.

**Dismissed...Neymar**

"I don't like comparisons with Pele because of the stupid things he says. He keeps on saying stupid stuff when he takes the wrong pills"

**Diego Maradona (left) still has no time for the Brazilian**

ARGENTINA

# Riquelme returns as pride triumphs over pesos

"Football is Roman-tic again" read the banner, greeting the return of the "Last Number 10". The hero and idol, the player who stood up to the board and sided with the fans, was back in blue and yellow, and leading the team out. Seeing Juan Roman Riquelme back at Boca Juniors was a victory for the supporters, who demanded his return at every opportunity. Now it is up to him to deliver their hopes on the pitch.

Eight months ago Riquelme was on the verge of a divorce from the club with which he won 10 titles, having entered contractual limbo, his pay "suspended". When Boca lost the Libertadores Cup Final to Corinthians last June, Riquelme said he was leaving. "I'm empty, I can't give anything more to Boca," he said – which was even more damaging for the board than losing a continental Final.

Riquelme had fought with coach Julio Falcioni over tactics, but more crucially over influence and leadership of the squad. Falcioni, a disciplinarian hired in late 2009 to bring some order to Boca's house, rarely found space for Riquelme's type of player – the *enganche*. Riquelme complained he was played out of position, or simply left out, and resented the board's support of Falcioni, who in turn accused the squad of listening to the player more than him.

During the pair's cold war, Boca won the title in 2011 and were Libertadores finalists before the relationship reached breaking point. Yet with Riquelme gone, he was more present than ever at La Bombonera. The final match of last season ended with Boca fans demanding Falcioni go and Riquelme return.

With no alternative, president Daniel Angelici allowed Falcioni's contract to run down then pulled off a coup by persuading Carlos Bianchi to wake from his coaching slumber – "a siesta", as he himself put it. Riquelme seemed certain to also return with the man under whom he had won two Libertadores Cups and a Club World Cup.

Yet in early January, when the 34-year-old turned up for the first day of pre-season with Bianchi, he left barely minutes later. "I had to tell the president and the coach I am not going to play for Boca. Six months ago I made a decision and that is difficult to change," said Riquelme, before adding ominously: "I love this club, but I have my word."

**Hero's welcome...Riquelme takes to the pitch at La Bombonera for his emotional return in Boca's colours**

### Stumbling block

There was talk of him seeking a one-year extension on his deal which ends in 2014. Another issue was the exchange rate. As Argentinian clubs switch contracts from dollars to pesos, the current climate – there is a 60 per cent difference between the official exchange rate and the "parallel" rate for the dollar – makes for a significant stumbling block in talks. As Riquelme also said: "I had spoken to Bianchi about going to Chivas in the USA with him but then he took charge at Boca and everything changed."

With Riquelme more than happy to spend time with his family and friends, offers arrived. Brazil's Palmeiras claimed they had his verbal agreement to a move. Argentinos Juniors, where he started in the youth system before joining Boca aged 18, tried to find the means to pay the US$2.1million stipulated in his suspended contract. Tigre, his local club, used their considerable political power to try to convince him. Yet what changed Riquelme's mind was pride, not pesos. He spoke to Bianchi after Boca lost a pre-season *superclasico* to River Plate. "I feel strongly about these colours and get angry when we lose the clasico," he said.

Bianchi opened the door without hesitation, but another problem arose. Boca midfielder Leandro Somoza said: "A captain is important, but so is the group. It's not good having a captain and group going in opposite directions."

Newspaper articles appeared about "who's friends with who" in the squad – and in the first match of the season, against Quilmes, La Bombonera booed Somoza's every touch.

Riquelme's first game back proved a damp squib. At home to Union de Santa Fe, who were without a win in 26 games – one of the longest runs in Argentinian football history – Boca were 2-0 down inside 35 minutes. The final result, 3-1, amply represented the ease with which Union ruined the party.

"In 2007 I hadn't played for a long time either and that ended the best way possible," said Riquelme, referring to the club's most recent Libertadores success, for which he is credited as delivering almost single-handedly. That title, and his form, also came after he finally found a solution to a contract dispute.

***Joel Richards***

"How do you stop Messi? With a gun"

**Juventus coach Antonio Conte (right) on a novel way to deal with the World Player of the Year**

# GOALS we'd like to see again

**To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://bit.ly/QgYtz2**

**1 HUGO CAMPAGNARO**
**Napoli v Lazio**
Great technique as he turns and volleys in mid-air from around the penalty spot.

**2 JUAN CARLOS GARCIA**
**Honduras v USA**
An overhead kick from the edge of the six-yard area.

**3 FIKRU-TEFERRA LEMESSA**
**Free State Stars v Kaizer Chiefs**
Plays a one-two before flicking the ball up with his right foot, readjusting his body and scissor-kicking with his left foot into the far top corner, from the edge of the penalty area.

**4 LUIS SUAREZ**
**Liverpool v Zenit**
Curls a free-kick around the wall and back inside a post.

**5 SAMUEL UMTITI**
**Lyon v Tottenham Hotspur**
Sweetly struck left-foot half-volley in the Europa League from the edge of the penalty area that is drilled into the far top corner.

**6 KORHAN OZTURK**
**Altay v Anadolu Selcukluspor**
A dipping right-foot volley, from outside the penalty area, into the far top corner in the Turkish third tier.

# WINNERS

**SWANSEA CITY**
Recorded the biggest League Cup Final victory in beating fourth-tier Bradford City 5-0 to claim the club's first piece of major silverware in their 101-year history.

**ROSS COUNTY**
The Scottish highlands club, in their first SPL season, are on the verge of a European place after stretching their unbeaten run to 10 games.

**CUBA**
Qualified for their first-ever Under-20 World Cup finals when they beat Costa Rica 2-1.

# LOSERS

**ZHIVKO MILANOV**
Vaslui's Bulgarian defender lost five teeth when kicked in the mouth by CFR Cluj's Cadu in the Romanian league. Cadu was banned for nine games.

**JOHN CAREW**
The Norwegian striker's chances of resurrecting his career at Internazionale fell through when he failed a medical at the Serie A club.

**ARSENAL SARANDI**
Became the first Argentinian club to ship five goals at home in the Libertadores Cup when beaten 5-2 by Atletico Mineiro.

"Sometimes I don't even have a shower"

**Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has had some very quiet games this season**

SPAIN

**Making his point...flying enthusiast Salva speaks to a group of trainee pilots at Fuentemilanos aerodrome in Segovia**

# Salva loses Celta job over political differences

Salva Ballesta put down the phone, packed his car, climbed behind the wheel and set off. Malaga to Vigo is a long way and he had over 1,000km ahead of him. Abel Resino had just been confirmed as Celta Vigo's new coach, in place of Paco Herrera, and the former Atletico Madrid, Malaga, Racing Santander and Bolton Wanderers striker was set to be Resino's assistant. Recently qualified, it was his first coaching job, an opportunity.

Around 400km into the journey, the phone rang. Salva took the call and at the other end was Carlos Mourino, the president of Celta Vigo. He told Salva that he was very sorry but it would be better if he turned round and headed home; he was not going to be the Celta assistant coach after all. Mourino couldn't defy the fans and they would not exactly welcome Salva into the club. In fact, they would block his signing.

When Celta's supporters found out that morning that their assistant coach was going to be Salva they began to protest. Message boards were full and complaints were sent in the club's direction. They were simply not prepared to accept a man they had abused so often as a player.

But this was not just about club rivalry; there was more to it than that.

"There are political reasons," says Salva. "There are people who do not accept my idea of 'Spanishness'."

**Military salute**

Salva is a qualified pilot with a fascination for aviation and vintage fighter planes, who can talk you through all the latest developments in military aircraft. Whenever he scored a goal during his career, he stopped before the fans and performed a military salute.

His father and grandfather were both aviators and he says that he wanted to be a pilot too, but that football ended up taking over. Not that the game ever stopped him from flying.

Salva is the owner of a Yak-52, a two-seater plane designed by Alexander Yakovlev that was originally used by Russian pilots as they trained to fly hunter jets. The aircraft is capable of 420km/h and he is a member of a military association that looks after the planes and is organised along real regimental lines. In the past, Salva has said that he counts aviators Joaquin Garcia Morato and Hans Rudel among the people he admires.

And that's the thing: Garcia Morato, like Salva's grandfather, was a pilot during the Spanish Civil War, fighting with the Nationalists on Franco's side, while Rudel flew for the Luftwaffe in World War II. And that was never going to go down well with Celta Vigo's more radical supporters, who are proud of their status as politically aware and active left-wingers.

Salva insists that he is not politically motivated. He is, he says, simply a patriot – a man who had Spain flags stitched into his boots when he was a player. Hence his insistence that he had been vetoed for his "Spanishness".

Although he has not explicitly said so, he could also explain his interest in Morato and Rudel purely in terms of their abilities as aviators. But critics are not convinced and there have been other moments when Salva has been hinted at political leanings that they emphatically do not share.

**Failed coup**

In an interview with a website in 2006 Salva admitted that he would like to meet Lt Col Antonio Tejero, the man who led the failed military coup against Spain's fledgling democracy in 1981, bursting into parliament with a pistol in his hand and taking the MPs hostage.

After the Madrid train bombings he expressed his belief that "72 hours" with the suspects would be "enough" to get a confession. And when Barcelona defender Oleguer Presas – a committed supporter of Catalan independence – wrote an article questioning the Spanish judiciary's treatment of the ETA prisoner Ignacio De Juana Chaos, Salva said: "Oleguer deserves all the respect of a dog turd."

With no little irony, Salva's political beliefs have been held against him and denied him a job. The campaign had become big enough for Mourino to admit he felt he had no choice. He did not fight Salva's corner and nor did Resino, who signed as Celta's new coach but with a different assistant.

***Sid Lowe***

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"Balotelli did very well not to react to the provocations. I'm just sorry he wasn't able to score"

**Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri after the derby against Internazionale**

# 18 MATCHES THAT MATTERED

Recent crunch games from around the globe

**ATLETICO MADRID 0**
**RUBIN KAZAN 2**
The Europa League holders lost at home in the first leg of their last-32 tie against the Russian side and could only win the return game 1-0.

**GREMIO 1**
**HUACHIPATO 2**
The Chilean champions caused a major upset in the opening round of games in the group stage of the Libertadores Cup when they beat big-spenders Gremio.

**AKHISAR BELEDIYESPOR 1**
**GALATASARAY 2**
Sub Didier Drogba scored within five minutes of his debut. He then set up Burak Yılmaz for Gala's second goal as they stretched their league lead to six points.

**RAPID VIENNA 1**
**AUSTRIA VIENNA 2**
The league leaders won the 304th Vienna derby, with Philipp Hosiner scoring twice to put the visitors 13 points clear of their great rivals.

**AL AHLY 2**
**LEOPARDS 1**
Al Ahly of Egypt added the African Super Cup to the CAF Champions League title they won in November, beating the Confederation Cup winners from Congo.

**INTERNAZIONALE 1**
**MILAN 1**
Honours even in the derby as Mario Balotelli faced his old club and suffered racist abuse. Stephan El Shaarawy put Milan ahead; Inter's Ezequil Schelotto equalised.

**FEYENOORD 2**
**PSV EINDHOVEN 1**
The Rotterdammers came back from a goal down against league leaders PSV to close the gap at the top of the Eredivisie to just three points.

**PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2**
**MARSEILLE 0**
David Beckham, on his Ligue 1 debut as a second-half substitute, helped to set up the second goal, for Zlatan Ibrahimovic, as leaders PSG extended their advantage.

**HAJDUK SPLIT 1**
**DINAMO ZAGREB 2**
The Croatian league leaders extended the gap over their arch-rivals to 11 points in a game that was postponed three days earlier because of torrential rain.

**BAYERN MUNICH 1**
**BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0**
Arjen Robben's goal settled the German Cup quarter-final and went some way to avenging Bayern's defeat by Dortmund in last season's Final.

**NAPOLI 1**
**JUVENTUS 1**
The top of table clash ended honours even. Antonio Conte's side remained six points ahead after Gokhan Inler cancelled out Giorgio Chiellini's opener for Juve.

**REAL MADRID 2**
**BARCELONA 1**
Four days after their Spanish Cup win over Barca, Real Madrid beat their arch-rivals at the Santiago Bernabeu in La Liga.

"This is the worst day of my life"

**Niklas Bendtner is banned by the Danish FA for six months after being caught drink driving in Copenhagen**

**SOCHAUX 3**
**PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2**
Cedric Bakambu's winner, six minutes from time, lifted Sochaux out of the relegation zone and ended PSG's nine-match unbeaten run in Ligue 1.

**MILAN 2**
**BARCELONA 0**
Second-half goals from Ghanaian pair Kevin-Prince Boateng and Sulley Muntari secured a first-leg win for Milan in front of nearly 80,000 fans.

**SWANSEA CITY 5**
**BRADFORD CITY 0**
Fourth-tier Bradford's amazing run came to a shuddering halt at Wembley as Michael Laudrup's team cantered to the biggest League Cup Final win in history.

**BARCELONA 1**
**REAL MADRID 3**
Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice as Real Madrid won at Camp Nou to secure a 4-2 aggregate victory and set up a Spanish Cup Final with neighbours Atletico Madrid.

**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 2**
**ARSENAL 1**
Two goals in three minutes secured north London bragging rights for Tottenham as Arsenal fell further behind the Champions League qualifying places.

**MANCHESTER UNITED 1**
**REAL MADRID 2**
Cristiano Ronaldo scored on his return to Old Trafford to knock United out of the Champions League in a match which turned on Nani's controversial dismissal.

NIGERIA

# Keshi changes his mind after quitting Super Eagles

**Hands on the trophy...Stephen Keshi (right) with Nigeria's president Goodluck Jonathan**

A surprise victory for Nigeria at the African Nations Cup was expected to give coach Stephen Keshi the time and leeway needed to continue with his long-term plans for the "Super Eagles". Even in a country as flippant and demanding as the west African nation, it could be presumed a Nations Cup-winning coach would have breathing space to continue with his mission.

But Keshi sought to use the immediacy of success and the public acclamation at the tournament to try to force his employer's hand, announcing his resignation less than 24 hours after the 1-0 victory over Burkina Faso in the Final in Johannesburg and even before the squad had left South Africa.

He has since withdrawn his resignation, but the threat of imminent departure remains as he says the row with the Nigerian Football federation is only "temporarily" over.

He is insistent on being able to do his job without interference. This is rare in African football where officials feel empowered to stick their noses in and offer opinions on all matters, including team selection. "You must give me the respect and freedom to do my job," says Keshi. But the real source of his anger was the persistent rumours over his future that swirled consistently over his head, starting only months after he had taken over in early 2012.

**Dismissal letter**

Keshi claims some Nigerian federation members have long been after his head and that a dismissal letter had already been drafted, to be delivered if Nigeria flopped, as many expected, during the African Nations Cup. "Speculation was all over the place and I kept hearing about my being sacked throughout the Nations Cup," he says. "But I was not bothered by this. Let them hand me the letter and I'll leave."

For as experienced a man as Keshi in the machinations of Nigerian football politics, his resignation still seemed a desperate ploy. It came on a radio show, precipitating hastily arranged talks with top officials, including sports minister Bolaji Abdullahi. Keshi then withdrew his resignation and travelled back with the squad to Abuja.

But the truce is still uneasy. It may not have been the best ploy if he is to be allowed to continue with his plans, in seemingly emboldening his enemies and losing much sympathy with the neutrals.

Keshi had, at the start of the Nations Cup in January, set out a vision he hopes will see Nigeria prove competitive in Russia in 2018 as Africa look for their first triumph at the World Cup.

That his team won the tournament three weeks later was a surprise to all, Nigeria seemingly way ahead of their coach's schedule despite the inexperience of much of their squad.

All the drama ensures that Keshi goes to June's Confederations Cup in Brazil with a tenuous tenure. He will likely need similar heroics to stave off more histrionics.

***Mark Gleeson***

"What I miss about football in England is that the stadiums are packed, whereas those in the Russian league are often half-empty"

**Fabio Capello hints at a return to English football**

# TOP 10 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP STARS

The players who lit up the 2013 tournament in South Africa

**Dramatic...Traore celebrates his late equaliser for Burkina Faso against eventual champions Nigeria**

**Excelled...the forward-thinking Mikel**

**Key man...Keita of semi-finalists Mali**

**Inspirational...Pitroipa**

**Joint-top scorer...Wakaso managed four goals**

**1 JONATHAN PITROIPA**
**Burkina Faso**
Named as the player of the tournament, the Rennes midfielder was inspirational in Burkina Faso's surprise passage to the Final.

**2 VICTOR MOSES**
**Nigeria**
The Chelsea winger, who is a former England Under-21 international, starred for Nigeria in the Final and also won the CAF fairplay award.

**3 CHARLES KABORE**
**Burkina Faso**
The midfielder was the driving force in midfield for the "*Burkinabe*" and earned a lucrative move to Russia on the back of his displays

**4 MUBARAK WAKASO**
**Ghana**
The Espanyol attacker finished as the tournament's joint-top scorer with four goals.

**5 SUNDAY MBA**
**Nigeria**
One of the surprise stars of the tournament, the home-based striker scored the only goal of the Final against Burkina Faso.

**6 KENNETH OMERUO**
**Nigeria**
The teenage defender, on loan from Chelsea to Holland's Den Haag, kept Nigerian captain Joseph Yobo out of the starting line-up.

**7 ALAN TRAORE**
**Burkina Faso**
The Lorient striker scored a dramatic late equaliser against Nigeria in Burkina Faso's opening game, then a stunning goal from 25 yards against Ethiopia.

**8 EMMANUEL EMENIKE**
**Nigeria**
The Spartak Moscow striker missed the Final through injury but still finished as the tournament's joint-top scorer with four goals.

**9 SEYDOU KEITA**
**Mali**
The former Barcelona midfielder, who now plays in China for Dalian Aerbin, was the key player in his country's passage to the semi-finals.

**10 JOHN OBI MIKEL**
**Nigeria**
The Chelsea midfielder, usually a defensive player with his club, excelled in a more forward role for his country.

ITALY

Repeated warnings...Lazio followers

## Lazio punished by UEFA

Lazio were ordered to play two home European games behind closed doors after their fans were found guilty of racist behaviour by UEFA for the fourth time this season.

Lazio, who have a long-standing right-wing element among their fans, have paid the price for the continued racist conduct of their supporters.

Racist incidents have occurred in the home and away Europa League group matches with Tottenham Hotspur, the group match with Maribor and latterly Nazi salutes were witnessed in the last-32 home leg against Borussia Monchengladbach.

Lazio were ordered to play their home fixture against Stuttgart behind closed doors, as well as their next European game. They were fined €40,000.

Lazio president Claudio Lotito was angry at the punishments despite the persistent problems. "Two games behind closed doors, it's incredible," he said.

"It's an abnormal sanction with respect to the reality, Lazio did everything we could and ought to have done to stop what happened."

Turkish champions Fenerbahce were also ordered to play their next home European match in an empty stadium and face a suspended one-season ban from UEFA competition after supporters threw fireworks from outside the stadium in the Europa League last-32 game with BATE Borisov.

# Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

## Welcome to the new, indecisive, diplomatic Mourinho

Two games were being played when Manchester United faced Real Madrid in the Champions League.

On the field, United's impressive tactical discipline and use of speedy attackers, rather than a recently labouring Wayne Rooney, had put them on course for victory until a fiercely disputed red card to Nani altered the balance of the match, and the controversy stirred opinion around the globe as Real triumphed 2-1 at Old Trafford for a narrow 3-2 aggregate win.

Off the field there was a more subtle drama, but one no less intriguing, as Madrid coach Jose Mourinho tried to alter his image from arrogant, egotistical provocateur to that of humble, thoughtful diplomat.

He gave, before the game, an eloquent impromptu interview to MUTV, the club station of his match rivals, on request from Manchester United legend Paddy Crerand. After the final whistle, he told anyone who would listen that "the best team had lost" and talked of his admiration for United's performance.

When asked in another TV conversation whether he would come back to English football when he leaves Madrid – which everyone assumes will be this summer – Mourinho spoke with inordinate enthusiasm for the idea. Then, with a supposedly self-effacing smile, he said: "If anybody wants me".

The mood music for many months from Manchester United, led by their legendary former player and still influential director Bobby Charlton, is that Mourinho's intense personality and ability to generate internal club conflict is not the Old Trafford model. The clear hint is that the Portuguese would not be the right sort to succeed Alex Ferguson when he eventually steps down.

This would also seem likely to be the case at Manchester City, where the position of manager Roberto Mancini is thought to be at risk following a poor season in the Champions League and rumoured fall-outs with players.

We can deduce this from a book written by City chief executive Ferran Soriano about his time at Barcelona and how they made the choice between Pep Guardiola and Mourinho in 2008 when seeking a new first-team coach.

Sorriano and Txiki Begiristain, now the director of football at Manchester City, used a detailed nine-point schedule when interviewing both men. Mourinho lost out specifically on point six which covered commitments such as "media work and respect for referees and opponents".

> The hint is that Mourinho might not be the "right sort" for United when Ferguson steps down

In his book *Goal: The Ball Doesn't Go In By Chance*, Sorriano wrote of Mourinho: "His methods generated media conflict almost permanently and was also a potential source of conflict within the club. Begiristain was worried about point six."

Where else could a manager of Mourinho's stature work in England? His old club Chelsea, of course, will require a new man this summer. Mourinho left in 2007, when he alienated owner Roman Abramovich with his abrasive style, and any return to Stamford Bridge would surely demand diplomacy.

Clubs know they will get a serious chance of winning with Mourinho; the ruthless clarity of his substitutions after Nani's red card was a profound illustration of that. But they fear they will also get endless aggravation.

Something has to alter – and are we now seeing that occurring before our eyes? Are we seeing Mourinho realise he must change his ways?

It certainly seemed so on a momentous night at Old Trafford. Some will ask whether it is real, but that is the wrong question. Who knows who or what the "true" Mourinho is? His management has always been an act, a bravura performance, a magnificent conjuring trick.

Maybe all that's happening now is that Jose Mourinho has decided that he must play a new character to remain on centre stage. WS

## "We've done it in a frugal way"

**Liverpool chief executive Ian Ayre (left) unveils annual accounts that revealed former manager Kenny Dalglish (far left) received a £10million pay-off last year**

# REPORTS we couldn't make up

Mortar victim...Sleman

**1** Youssef Sleman, a centre-forward with Syrian Premier League side Al Wathba, was killed in a mortar attack at the Tishreen sports stadium. He played for Al Karamah in the 2008 AFC Champions League.

**2** Former Coventry City and Zimbabwe winger Peter Ndlovu faces charges of homicide for his involvement in a car crash in which his elder brother, Adam, died.

Ndlovu junior, who is assistant coach of Zimbabwe's national side, was seriously injured in the accident outside Victoria Falls town in December, in which a female passenger, Nomqhele Tshili, was also killed.

The 39-year-old former winger's car veered off the road at speed and crashed into trees.

**3** Uzbekistan's sports ministry has banned football fans from chanting or painting their faces in a new crackdown on unruly behaviour.

A new code of conduct also prevents fans from bringing animals into a stadium. Fans who violate the new code "may face a punishment according to the law".

Killjoys...Uzbek fans are forbidden to chant or paint their faces

Seven digits...a gold replica of Messi's left foot has been valued at £3.5million

Crash deaths charges...Peter Ndlovu

**4** Lionel Messi is now officially worth his weight in gold. A pure gold replica of the World Player of the Year's left foot, valued at £3.5million, has been created by Japanese jeweller Ginza Tanaka.

"We loved the sound of making the 'golden left foot' and it being gold, it was our goal to make the project of recreating Messi's left foot a reality," said Tanaka, who plans to donate profits from the sale of the foot to the Leo Messi Foundation.

**5** Violence spilled over from the terraces onto the pitch during the Argentinian top-flight match between Newell's Old Boys and Belgrano at the Estadio Marcelo Alberto Bielsa in Rosario.

When the fans in one corner of the stadium started to brawl and throw missiles, police moved in to calm down the situation. But when the players ran over to confront the officers, Belgrano defender Gaston Turus was smashed in the face with a policeman's baton.

**6** Ghana's ex-West Ham United and Fulham defender John Paintsil was arrested for allegedly stabbing his wife in the eye following an argument over money.

The 31-year-old, who currently plays in the Israeli Premier League for Hapoel Tel Aviv, was released on police bail, but in a further twist he was taken to hospital after collapsing.

Paintsil's spokesman, Ebenezer Aidoo, denied that his client had attempted suicide following his arrest. Instead, Aidoo insisted that Paintsil had been hospitalised after he suffered "exhaustion and dehydration".

Stabbing allegation...Paintsil

OBITUARIES

Uruguay World Cup star...Cubilla

**LUIS CUBILLA** (1940-2013)
Played at three World Cups for Uruguay and won 38 caps, scoring 11 goals. After appearing for Barcelona in Spain and River Plate in Argentina, he coached Olimpia to 10 Paraguayan league titles and two Libertadores Cups.

**ZDENEK ZIKAN** (1937-2013)
A striker with Sparta Prague and Hradec Kralove, he scored five times in four games for Czechoslovakia, including four goals at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden.

**HANS JEPPSON** (1925-2013)
The most expensive player in the world when he joined Napoli from Atalanta for L150million (£67,000) in 1952, he scored nine goals in 11 games for Sweden and helped his country to finish third at the 1950 World Cup in Brazil.

**CON MARTIN** (1923-2013)
Capped by the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, he played a full season in goal for Aston Villa, but is best remembered as a centre-half who scored in a 2-0 win for Ireland against England at Goodison Park in 1949 – England's first-ever home defeat by a team from outside the United Kingdom.

# Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

## Why statistics only tell half of the story

It is unfortunate that statistics are only understood by mathematicians. Or so they tell us. Actually, they're wrong. I'm not so hot on the maths front, but I've mastered football statistics. I think. I see two types: game stats (goals scored, saves, corners) and technical stats, which are much more complicated - and those are the ones I'm not so sure about.

I also know enough to whoop with delight when I read that Tottenham Hotspur coach Andre Villas-Boas calls stats useless. No doubt he was talking about technical ones. I know; it's not the stats, they're just innocent, inactive numbers. It is the interpretation that causes all the problems. So, while still nursing the certainty that those damn numbers are trouble, let me tell you about the player who opened my eyes to the vagaries of interpretation.

You all remember Hector Enrique, of course. He's my football statistics hero. He's the one...but what's this? You don't remember him? Well that's the point, really. In the 1986 World Cup he was the guy who prodded a short pass to Diego Maradona...and some 11 seconds and 50 yards later the England defence was in tatters and Maradona had scored one of the greatest goals of all time.

Enrique later joked about his assist. A good joke, and one that exposed the fallibility of stats. To give Enrique an assist for that goal would be ridiculous. But suppose he had trailed Maradona and, as he entered the penalty area, received a return pass and scored with a tap-in? In that case, Maradona's assist would be the vital, overriding but still unacknowledged stat.

The overall idea of keeping a record of assists is a good one, even though there is no convenient way of measuring their brilliance or otherwise. But the recognition that, thanks to interpretation, any category of football stats is likely to include both valuable and useless examples is worth bearing in mind.

The assist stat is useful information – if properly defined and interpreted, of course – and the word itself is a useful addition to the sport's vocabulary. It's not perfect and sometimes it may be necessary to give two assists on a goal. But why not if it acknowledges skill that would otherwise go unrecorded?

Assists are a relatively harmless form of stats as they do not come into the category which coaches like to cull from computers then turn into training aids. Ground covered, pass completion, tackles missed, even physiological things like heart-rate, are a veritable treasure trove of tempting stats. But these, I think, are the ones Villas-Boas finds of little use.

> Hector Enrique missed out on a ludicrous assist but reminds us that goalscoring usually involves more than one player

Stats can be downright misleading. Why are "clean sheets" added to a goalkeeper's stats as if he is solely responsible? The truth is he's more likely to be operating behind a great defence and had relatively little to do.

Does anyone know what all those percentages labelled "possession" really mean? I doubt it. Anyway, we need more stats: possession in the opposing half, in the final third, that sort of thing. And wouldn't a stat of "defence-splitting passes" be more revealing?

For now, I'll stick with the simplicity of the assist type of stat – one not enlisted into the pseudo-intellectual world of modern coaching, but which tells us something about the men who play the sport. Hector Enrique missed out on being given a ludicrous assist, but his later good humour reminds us goalscoring usually involves more than one player. So why not a stat that enables the honours to be shared? WS

"Like in any business if we get 80 per cent or 75 per cent of the customers happy, with 20-25 per cent not happy, that's fine. If they don't want to come to support our business, that's fine. We need the majority"

**After changing the club's colours from blue to red, Cardiff City owner Vincent Tan thought about "rebranding" the club as Cardiff Dragons**

# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

## IN

Finalist...Kabore

### EUROPE

At 36, **CHRISTIAN BUCCHI** became the youngest coach in Serie A, replacing Cristiano Bergodi at struggling Pescara.

Deportivo La Coruna put **FERNANDO VAZQUEZ** in charge when Domingos Paciencia left the club after six games in charge. Depor's regional rivals Celta Vigo appointed **ABEL RESINO**.

Marseille midfielder **CHARLES KABORE**, who was an African Nations Cup finalist with Burkina Faso in February, joined Russian Premier League side Kuban Krasnodar.

Investment...Ismaily

Shakhtar Donetsk signed left-back **ISMAILY** from Braga for a reported fee of €4million. Summer signing **MARKO DEVIC**, who played in all of Ukraine's matches at Euro 2012 last summer, rejoined Metalist Kharkiv from Shakhtar on a four-year deal.

**LUDWIG PREIS** took over as coach of bottom-of-the-league Greuther Furth when Mike Buskens was sacked for winning only two of his 22 Bundesliga games as coach this season.

Ghana defender **LEE ADDY** joined Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb on loan from Dalian Aerbin of China until the end of the season.

Former Denmark and Celtic midfielder **MORTEN WIEGHORST**, who had been coaching his country's under-21 side, joined Premier League club Swansea City as manager Michael Laudrup's assistant. **JESS THORUP** is set to replace Wieghorst in June, when his contract with Esbjerg expires.

**FREDDY DAVID** replaced Yossi Abuksis as coach of Israeli Premier League side Hapoel Tel Aviv following a run of five games without a win.

Scotland international **JAMES McFADDEN** rejoined former club Motherwell until the end of the season after his short-term contract at Premier League side Sunderland expired.

Back home...McFadden

### CONCACAF

In Mexico, Uruguayan coach **CARLOS MORALES** replaced Eduardo Fentanes at San Luis and **CARLOS BUSTOS** took over from Ruben Romano at Morelia.

### AFRICA

Former Algeria international **ADEL AMROUCHE** has taken over from Henri Michel, whose contract was terminated in December, as coach of Kenya.

**NABIL MAALOUL**, who took Esperance to the African Champions League title in 2011, succeeded Sami Trabelsi as coach of Tunisia.

Ex-Spain defender **ANDONI GOIKOETXEA** was appointed coach of Equatorial Guinea. He won 39 caps for his country and was assistant to Javier Clemente at the 1994 World Cup in the USA.

Former Cameroon national team coach **DENIS LAVAGNE** took charge of Tunisian club side Etoile Sahel.

Dutch coach **JAN MAK** will take charge of the Seychelles' national side for a second time in April.

Former Portsmouth and Manchester City striker **BENJANI MWARUWARI** joined struggling South African Premiership side Chippa United.

Former Zambia coach **PATRICK PHIRI** took charge of club side Green Buffaloes, replacing the late George Chikokola who died in January from an illness. Phiri returns to club management five months after he was sacked by NAPSA Stars.

Ex-Senegal coach **AMARA TRAORE** took charge of Guinean side Kaloum, replacing Pele Diop.

**AZIZ KERKACH** took over as coach of club side COD Meknes when it was discovered that Hicham El Idrissi did not have the coaching certificate required by Moroccan football's governing body.

National job...Maaloul

Having another go...Gasperini

## Gasperini back at Palermo three weeks after the sack

Serie A strugglers Palermo reappointed **GIAN PIERO GASPERINI** as coach less than three weeks after they replaced him with **ALBERTO MALESANI.**

Controversial club owner **MAURIZIO ZAMPARINI** has now fired more than 20 coaches since 2002. Giuseppe Sannino was sacked just three games into this season and replaced by Gasperini, who made way for Malesani in early February.

"They can train at a third division club's place if they want"

**Celtic midfielder Kris Commons mocks Rangers' attempts to help Champions League opponents Juventus**

## Appointments, sackings and loans

### ASIA

Former Real Madrid coach **JUAN RAMON LOPEZ CARO** was handed a three-year contract by Saudi Arabia after leading the side to an Asian Cup qualifying win over China in an interim capacity.

Serb coach **ALEKSANDAR ILIC** replaced Karel Jarolim in charge of Al Ahli three months after the Czech had led the Saudi Arabian side to the AFC Champions League Final.

Former Serbia boss **VLADIMIR PETROVIC** succeeded Zico as national coach of Iraq.

**LUIS MILLA**, who was in charge of Spain's Olympic side last year, replaced Brazilian coach Paulo Bonamigo in charge of UAE side Al Jazira just four days before their opening game in the AFC Champions League.

Dutchman **LODEWIJK DE KRUIF** was appointed coach of Bangladesh and will take up his post in June.

Chinese side Beijing Baxy signed striker **RYAN GRIFFITHS** from A-League club Newcastle Jets.

Caretaker **MIKE MULVEY** was handed a permanent deal as coach by A-League side Brisbane Roar, while Perth Glory installed **ALISTAIR EDWARDS** as interim boss after sacking Ian Ferguson.

Japan striker **TADANARI LEE** returned to J.League side Tokyo, from Southampton, on loan until the end of June.

Former Syria national coach **FAJR IBRAHIM** replaced Jamal Ali in charge of Iraqi side Duhok.

### EUROPE

**DAVID GILL** is to step down as chief executive of Manchester United in June. He is expected to pursue a bid to be elected to the executive committee of European governing body UEFA. Gill will be succeeded at United by Ed Woodward, a former banker who is currently the club's vice-chairman.

Juventus striker **NICKLAS BENDTNER**, who is on a season-long loan from Arsenal, has been banned from Denmark's national team for six months after a police caution for drink driving.

**Deal expired...Girard**

Montpellier will not offer coach **RENE GIRARD** a new contract at the end of the season, according to club president Louis Nicollin. Girard guided the club to a first-ever French title last season.

Dundee sacked manager **BARRY SMITH** with the club 15 points adrift at the bottom of the Scottish Premier League, while Hearts dismissed **JOHN MCGLYNN**.

### CONCACAF

**CHUCK BLAZER**, the former CONCACAF general-secretary who went public with bribery accusations against former federation president Jack Warner and AFC chief Mohamed Bin Hammam, will not seek a fifth term on FIFA's ExCo and will leave his post in May.

Former Germany and Toronto midfielder **TORSTEN FRINGS** announced his retirement at the age of 36 following hip surgery.

### AFRICA

**Unhappy...Andre (right) and Jordan**

Brothers **ANDRE AYEW** and **JORDAN AYEW** of Ghana announced their temporary retirement from international football. Neither was selected for their country's squad for the African Nations Cup earlier this year.

### ASIA

**RICKI HERBERT**, who had been boss of Wellington Phoenix since the club's inception in 2007 and was the Australian A-League's longest-serving coach, quit his post with the New Zealand-based side bottom of the league. The 51-year-old remains in charge of New Zealand's national side.

Former Australia striker **JASON CULINA** parted company with Sydney by mutual consent, just days after a row with the A-League side's coach Frank Farina. The 32-year-old says he has no plans to quit: "I will have to wait until something comes up, whether it's in the A-League or abroad."

**OUT**

**Finished...Frings**

### McClaren departs Twente for a second time

Former England manager **STEVE McCLAREN** parted company with Dutch side Twente for a second time after going six games without a win.

Twente, who won the league under McClaren in 2010, slipped to fifth place, six points behind leaders PSV, after a 2-1 loss away to Heerenveen.

"After the defeat to Heerenveen, I met the president," McClaren said. "We discussed the expectations of the club, how European qualification was key each season and finishing in the top four.

"I also needed assurances about my position now and in the future, which I appreciate in the present situation is difficult. We have agreed it's in the best interest of the club going forward that I leave."

**Departure...McClaren left "in the best interest of the club"**

# Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

## Jeffrey Webb is FIFA's latest pipsqueak

Lord preserve us from pipsqueaks. And, still more urgently, from Michel Platini.

As alas we know, however great a footballer he once was, Platini has been a monumental disaster so far as UEFA president, perfectly happy, though wholly uncontaminated, by the ghastly prospect of Qatar of all unsuitable places putting on the 2022 World Cup. And seemingly quite content were the tournament to be played in the European winter, thereby utterly distorting and subverting the club programmes of almost all the major European countries whose interests he is supposed to protect.

Now we have the ineffable Jerome Valcke, a top banana at FIFA, announcing that he too is in favour of the World Cup being played in winter.

Yes, this is the same Valcke who not so long ago turned up in a New York court together with the adipose Chuck Blazer of CONCACAF to argue the case for FIFA switching its World Cup finals deal with Mastercard to VISA. The contemptuous woman judge threw the case out and called both of them liars. Valcke slunk back to Zurich to be very briefly given what might politely be called a token suspension, only in no time at all to emerge from it and occupy his present, focal position.

> If Webb is truly serious about combating racism, why not visit Russia or even Italy?

As for the pipsqueak, his name is Jeffrey Webb and he glories in the title of FIFA's new chief of anti-racism. No, I'd never heard of him either. Now he wants to meet the various Premier League footballers embroiled in racist incidents: John Terry of Chelsea, Luis Suarez of Liverpool, and their victims Anton Ferdinand, then at QPR, and Manchester United's Patrice Evra. Why? What useful purpose would it serve? And if he is truly serious about combating racism, why is he not visiting Russia and even Italy?

In recent years, English football, in the vernacular, has largely cleaned up its act. Racism from the terraces was often horrifying. Bananas were thrown, as they now seem to be in Italy. The young Chelsea winger Paul Canoville was driven to distraction by a brutal fusillade of insults. However distasteful, the cases of Terry and Suarez are emphatically the exceptions which prove the rule.

In Russia, Peter Odemwingie was driven out of Lokomotiv Moscow by vindictive fans who flourished a venomous banner "thanking" West Bromwich Albion when he left. Dick Advocaat, when managing Zenit, has admitted that he dared not sign a black player. A recent visit to the bigoted Balkans subjected England's Under-21 team to shocking insults from the crowd; UEFA's response was disgracefully tepid.

In Italy, the return of Mario Balotelli to Milan provoked the *tifosi* of his former club Internazionale, who once applauded him, into a barrage of racist hostility. Weeks earlier, when Milan played a "friendly" against humble though once resourceful Pro Patria in Busto Arsizio, the opprobrium suffered by Kevin-Prince Boateng was such that he left the field, followed by the rest of the Milan team.

Webb's intended visit to English football seems no more than a cheap, crass, redundant act of self-promotion.

Anyway, who is he?

**On a mission...FIFA's new chief of anti-racism, Webb, wants to meet Premier League players who have been involved in such incidents**

**Poignant message...a memorial to the 56 who died in the 1985 Bradford City fire**

## Nobody held to account for Bradford's 56 dead

Bradford City and the local council recently commemorated the horrific fire of May 11, 1985, on the last league Saturday of the season at a match against Lincoln City, before which Bradford had been presented with the Third Division championship trophy. When the 77-year-old wooden stand went up in flames, no fewer than 56 people were burned to death and another 200 were taken to hospital. It transpired that some old fool had dropped a lighted cigarette down a crack in the stand floor, thus igniting the fire.

The disaster was exacerbated by the fact that doors through which fans should have been able to escape had been kept inexplicably locked. What one has not read in reports of the commemorative ceremony is any account of the appalling culpability of both club and council, though, of course, no possible blame attached to either the club and council of today. It transpired at the time that it was well known to both entities that large amounts of rubbish had been allowed to accumulate under the floorboards of the stand. The council, knowing this, told the club to deal with it. The club did nothing and the council did not trouble to enforce its edict.

> Large amounts of rubbish had been allowed to accumulate under the stand

So 56 people died and neither club nor council was held to account. Not a single head rolled.

## Elliott's fall from grace is a mystery

Paul Elliott's explosive rant and consequent demise comes to me, who has known and liked him so long, as a fearful shock. It seems so utterly out of character, so untypical of a man I have always found intelligent, humorous and charming. I have known him since the days he was performing successfully in Italy's Serie A for Pisa. He had a somewhat uneasy spell at Celtic, once being viciously abused from the Celtic Park terraces by Hearts fans.

His career, after previous knee operations, came to a bitter end at Liverpool, when after he had plunged into a tackle on Dean Saunders, for which a foul was given against him, Saunders landed heavily on his knee. I was watching from the press box, narrowly separated from the directors' box, and when Ken Bates, then the owner of Chelsea, returned there after half-time, I asked him how Elliott was. He responded – words which were bewilderingly rejected by Mr Justice Drake when subsequently quoted by Bates in the High Court: "The players want to lynch Saunders. They say he stamped on him."

Saunders has always denied it and it was not established in court. Yet it was what Bates said to me, only for the judge to opine that Bates "has a bad memory". It was a case in which I had spent a long time examining witness statements and I enlisted the late Edward Grayson, author of the seminal *Sport and the Law*, as advisor and then Paul's junior barrister.

Paul lost the case with an estimated loss of £500,000. Sitting snugly and smugly in the well of the court day after day was the tall, blond figure of Ken Aston, wearing his FIFA blazer, though apart from the day he gave evidence – which was sharply criticised by the judge – he had no business to be there. The case concluded, he submitted a bill for £5,000. It wasn't paid. Nor was the £2,000 demanded for his statement by the former Arsenal manager Bertie Mee whose wife's illness prevented him from even appearing in court.

Aston's career might be seen as a triumph of success over disaster. Refereeing the notorious 1962 World Cup match in Santiago between Italy and Chile, he palpably lost control amid the appalling violence and limped through the rest of the tournament. But by the time it came to the English World Cup of 1966, he was in charge of the referees.

Elliott took his disaster on the chin and subsequently worked his way back to financial equilibrium and great respect for his anti-racism work. To behave as he did is incomprehensible. That one black man should call another a "nigger", a word outlawed except, perhaps, in places such as Harlem, where it is used in jest, makes not an atom of sense. The consequences were severe and inevitable.

## What is Kroenke playing at?

Will Arsenal be taken over, by the billion dollar Middle Eastern bidders, who want to pour vast sums of money into the club; a policy deplored by fans when employed by Chelsea and Manchester City? But Stan Kroenke seems to be standing firm. Good for him, but you do wonder why. He is hardly ever at the Emirates. **WS**

**Happier times...Elliott after being awarded a CBE for his anti-racism work**

# 100 Most

Radamel FALCAO
Atletico Madrid

Leandro PAREDES
Boca Juniors

NEYMAR
Santos

Wayne ROONEY
Manchester United

Gareth BALE
Tottenham Hotspur

# Wanted...

Christian ERIKSEN
Ajax

Wilfried BONY
Vitesse

Wilfried ZAHA
Crystal Palace

**Nick Bidwell, Tim Vickery and Joel Richards look at the players who will be targeted by Europe's big spenders this summer**

Every year since the Bosman ruling of 1995, people have made the same prediction that this summer's transfer market will see the last of the big spenders. Things can't possibly carry on, but they do.

The trend from the January 2013 transfer window was less money being spent in the cash-strapped economies of Italy, Spain and Portugal, but continued spending in Germany, England and France, where Paris Saint-Germain have added a new dimension to the marketplace.

A new north-south divide has emerged in Europe, with Russia as a potential new source of big-money deals. There are obvious exceptions – Barcelona and Real Madrid will continue to spend heavily – but Mediterranean clubs are increasingly looking to South America.

Other factors will also determine what deals are done. This summer could see a succession of major coaching changes. In addition to the arrival of Pep Guardiola at Bayern Munich, there could be new coaches at Real Madrid, Manchester City, PSG and Chelsea – the four biggest-spending clubs of recent years.

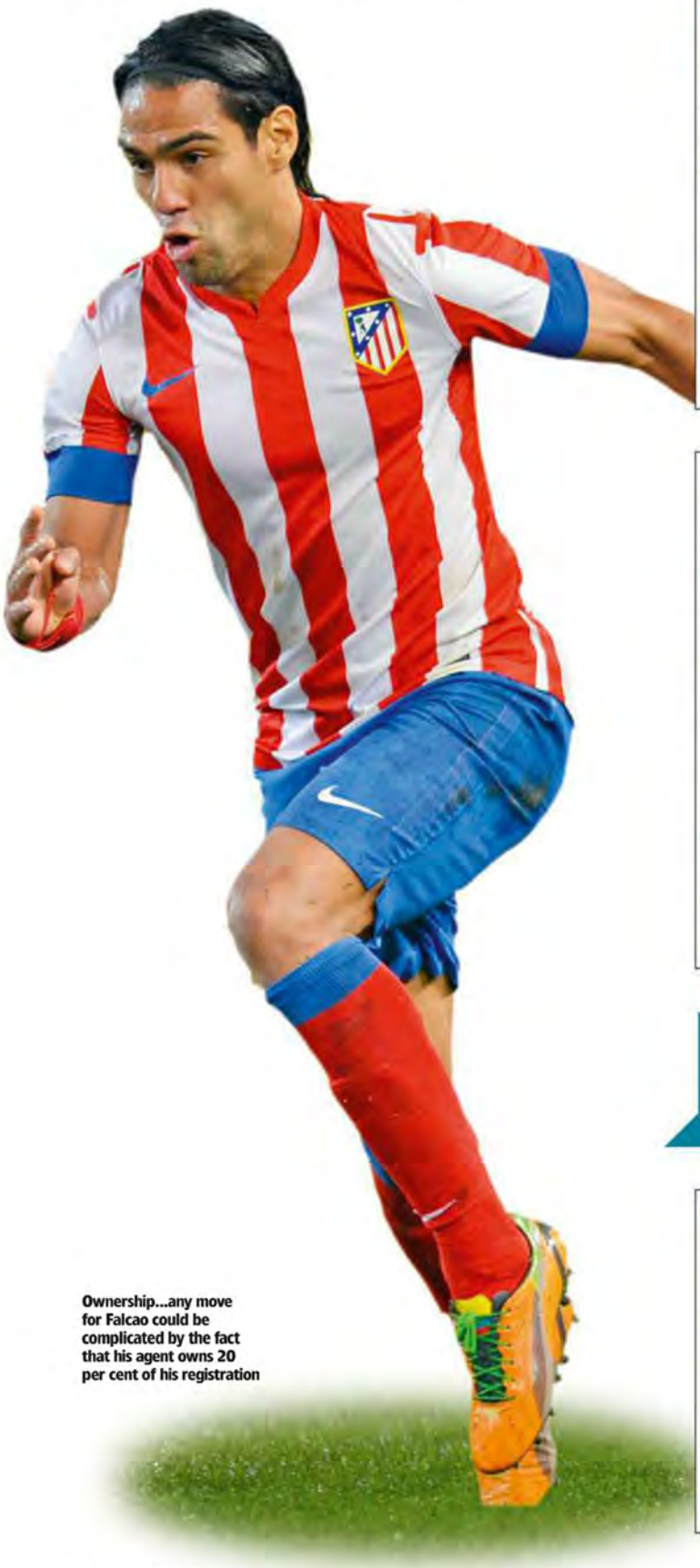
City and Chelsea may rein in their spending this summer as they try to comply with UEFA's Financial Fairplay regulations. But increased TV money means that, overall, the Premier League clubs have more to spend than ever before.

There are unknown factors, such as Champions League placings, which could affect Gareth Bale's future at Tottenham Hotspur, and the proclamations of Alex Ferguson, who has given his "word" that Wayne Rooney will be at Manchester United next season. Ferguson made similar promises on David Beckham, Roy Keane and Cristiano Ronaldo. On speculation that Real Madrid were preparing to bid for Ronaldo in 2009, he said "I wouldn't sell them a virus". Weeks later Ronaldo moved for a world-record fee.

The £80million from the sale of Ronaldo has been burning a hole in United's pocket ever since, and remains highest-ever transfer fee. It's highly unlikely that a new record will be set this summer. But stranger things have happened.

# Star movers

The big names in the spotlight



Ownership...any move for Falcao could be complicated by the fact that his agent owns 20 per cent of his registration

### Sergio AGUERO
Manchester City

What to believe? The striker's expressions of loyalty to the reigning Premier League champions or the incessant rumours in Spain that he wants to join Real Madrid or Barcelona?

### Karim BENZEMA
Real Madrid

Never quite able to fulfil his huge potential at Real, the French striker could, says Spanish journal *AS*, be used as bait in a deal to recruit Napoli's star goalgetter Edinson Cavani.

### Edin DZEKO
Manchester City

Frustrated by his lack of starts in the Premier League, the Bosnian striker is desperate to move on – perhaps to his old Bundesliga patch, where he used to star for Wolfsburg, or Serie A.

### Mario GOMEZ
Bayern Munich

His hopes of remaining Bayern's first-choice striker crushed by injury and the form of stand-in Mario Mandzukic, the Germany international may decide to cut and run this summer.

> "€60million for Falcao would solve Atletico's economic problems"
>
> Atletico Madrid CEO Miguel-Angel Gil Martin

### Radamel FALCAO
Atletico Madrid

Only the *crème de la crème* of European football will be able to afford the huge numbers required to bring in the Colombian goal machine. With a €60million buy-out clause in his present contract with the Spanish side and the €15m a year that he will cost in wages and taxes, it would appear that the battle for his signature is between Chelsea, Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid.

While Chelsea will fancy their chances – and could always offer to throw in former Atletico hero Fernando Torres as part of any deal – the whole situation is complicated by Falcao's contract. At present, Atletico own 80 per cent of his registration, while the other 20 per cent is controlled by agent Jorge Mendes.

## Sergio BUSQUETS
Barcelona

Spanish reports claim the Barcelona defensive midfielder is on the radar of the star collectors at PSG. Barca, however, are sure to want to hold onto one of their home-grown standard-bearers.

## Edinson CAVANI
Napoli

The battle for the Uruguayan hot shot could boil down to a Real Madrid versus Manchester City clash, with the winning bid sure to be well over €60m. (See Biography, page 56)

## Angel DI MARIA
Real Madrid

Unfortunately for the Argentinian wide man, this has not been the most consistent of seasons and he is likely to exit the Bernabeu stage-left in June, destination PSG or Manchester United.

## Mats HUMMELS
Borussia Dortmund

Catalan paper *Sport* has gone public with Barcelona's softly-softly plans to bring in the stylish German central defender. He did, however, extend his contract until 2017 last summer.

## Robert LEWANDOWSKI
Borussia Dortmund

Now that the Polish striker has made it clear he will not renew his 2014-dated contract, Dortmund must sell in the next transfer window or let him sign for Bayern Munich on a Bosman next year.

## Cristiano RONALDO
Real Madrid

The Portuguese star has felt unloved at times in Madrid this season. Paris Saint-Germain would happily set a new world record fee, especially if Jose Mourinho moves to France.

## Wayne ROONEY
Manchester United

His exclusion from United's starting line-up against Real Madrid at Old Trafford in the Champions League prompted talk of a summer exit. Few clubs, however, could afford his wages.

## Luis SUAREZ
Liverpool

The absence of Champions League football may encourage him to turn to one of his numerous suitors. Interestingly, his agent Pere Guardiola is the brother of new Bayern Munich boss Pep...

## Giorgio CHIELLINI
Juventus

Turin daily *Tuttosport* has been told by an inside source at Juve that the hard-tackling Italy defender is all set for a move to Paris Saint-Germain, who have offered him a three-year deal worth €5million a season.

## Gonzalo HIGUAIN
Real Madrid

Less and less a fixture at Real this season, the Argentina marksman remains hot property in the international market and has been courted by the likes of Manchester City, PSG - he was born in France - and Juventus.

## Frank LAMPARD
Chelsea

With Chelsea holding out over the offer of a contract extension to the England midfielder, whose current deal expires this summer, Major League Soccer would love to hire him – but family ties and international ambitions may keep him in London.

## Joao MOUTINHO
Porto

Porto have bought out the private investors who owned part of his contract, smoothing the way for a summer exit.

## NANI
Manchester United

The Portuguese winger's contract is up next season but talks have stalled on a new deal. Juventus are keen, but he could be used as bait to lure Rodriguez from Porto.

## Samir NASRI
Manchester City

A player for whom the term "*enfant terrible*" could have been invented, the French midfielder's sloppy play this term has had his coach Roberto Mancini pulling his hair out. PSG are plotting his escape route.

## Fernando TORRES
Chelsea

A favourite of Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, despite a dramatic loss of form since his £50m move from Liverpool in 2011. Will Chelsea's new manager (whoever that may be) have the courage to move him on?

## Victor VALDES
Barcelona

Following the keeper's refusal to prolong his contract, which concludes in 2014, Barca could put him in the shop window.

## David VILLA
Barcelona

A January 2013 target for Arsenal, who may come back with an improved offer in the summer.

# Heading to Europe

The Latin American and African talent on its way

Barca-bound...it is more a case of when, not where, will Neymar go

**BERNARD**
Atletico Mineiro

Striker with pace, intelligent movement and cool finishing, he was the revelation of last year's Brazilian Championship. He nearly went to Russia in the last transfer window.

**Ruben BOTTA**
Tigre

Left-footed attacking midfielder, he has made dramatic strides in the last few months – and with his contract about to expire, his Italian passport has not gone unnoticed in Serie A.

**Luis FARINA**
Racing

After rejecting a US$5million bid from CSKA Moscow earlier this year, Racing are steeling themselves for a wave of more substantial offers for their attacking midfielder.

**Lisandro LOPEZ**
Arsenal

Arsenal, the club from the Greater Buenos Aires area, have resisted several past offers for the centre-back but, at 23, the next transfer window is the time for him to move.

"He will be one of the Barcelona greats just as Ronaldo, Romario and Rivaldo were."

Santos coach Muricy Ramalho

**NEYMAR**
Santos

Santos coach Muricy Ramalho said recently that Neymar "will play at Barcelona". The question is whether it will be this summer or after the 2014 World Cup. An undisclosed payment in Barcelona's accounts is believed to be a down-payment on a future deal.

The 21-year-old attacker, who will form the fulcrum of the Brazil attack when they are hosts next year, has now played more than 100 games for Santos. Europe beckons, but his complicated registration – only 55 per cent is held by Santos – may delay matters.

## Nicolas CASTILLO
Universidad Catolica

The Chilean club turned down an offer of €3.3million for the centre-forward in January from an unnamed Bundesliga club. Milan, Fiorentina and Udinese are now also interested.

## Ricardo CENTURION
Racing

The 20-year-old midfielder's move to Anzhi fell through in January following concerns over a knee injury, but their interest could be revived in the summer.

## Jesus CORONA
Monterrey

The attacker who starred against Chelsea in the Club World Cup will be out of contract in the summer. La Liga awaits.

## Sunday MBA
Warri Wolves

The scorer of the winning goal in this year's African Nations Cup Final. English and German clubs lead the chase for his signature, but red tape and contractual disputes are muddying the waters.

## Leandro PAREDES
Boca Juniors

Juan Roman Riquelme named him as the successor to the no10 shirt at Boca, but there might not be time for him to impress at the Bombonera as a number of European clubs are keen.

## Guido PIZARRO
Lanus

The dynamic midfielder's move to Fiorentina fell through at the final hour last August, but he has impressed again this season at the heart of Lanus' engine room.

## Nacho SCOCCO
Newell's Old Boys

Together with Maxi Rodriguez and Gabriel Heinze, the striker returned to Newell's to help the club battle relegation. But, at 27, he is the youngest of the trio and attracting interest from Europe.

## Luciano VIETTO
Racing

The talented forward is likely to be the subject of several bids come summer after an assured debut season in the first team.

## Joaquin CORREA
Estudiantes

The midfielder has already been the subject of enquiries from Internazionale.

## Sebastian CRISTOFORO
Penarol

Combative midfielder who is capable on the ball. Future leadership material, who will surely be on the move before long.

## DEDE
Vasco da Gama

The Brazil international defender has been linked with a move to Europe for some time. This summer could be his moment.

## DORIA
Botafogo

Tall, left-footed centre-back, mature beyond his 18 years who has attracted the interest of Juventus.

## Diego LAXALT
Defensor

One of the finds of the recent South American Under-20 Championship. Dynamic left-footed midfielder who is set to join Internazionale.

## PAULINHO
Corinthians

Strong, versatile midfielder who excels at bursting into the box. The outstanding figure in an epic two years for his club and a player who should have few problems adapting to European football, especially after previous spells in Lithuania and Poland.

## Gino PERUZZI
Velez Sarsfield

A number of Italian clubs are keeping tabs on this promising right-sided Argentina international.

## Jorge ROJAS
Cerro Porteno

After the next transfer window Benfica are tipped to be the beneficiaries of this exciting talent, full of direct, strong running, who can feature in midfield or as a wing-back.

## Stoppila SUNZU
TP Mazembe

A contractual dispute that prevented the Zambia defender from joining Reading in January has now been resolved. A move to England remains on the cards.

# New challenges

The players moving on to pastures new

Target...any sign of Bale wanting to leave Spurs will have potential suitors falling over themselves

## ADRIAN Lopez
Atletico Madrid

Has found it hard to maintain last season's high goalscoring standards, but continues to have a substantial following in the Premier League. A €15million buy-out clause may be a deterrent.

## Pierre-Emerick AUBAMEYANG
Saint-Etienne

Flamboyant as he is hard working and decisive in front of goal, the Gabon striker makes no secret of the fact that he wants to be in a new championship come August.

## Kevin GAMEIRO
Paris Saint-Germain

He boasts a great goalscoring record in French football, but has no future at PSG now that he dwells in the shadow of Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Valencia have followed him for a while.

## Luiz GUSTAVO
Bayern Munich

After losing his place to Javi Martinez, the Brazilian defensive midfielder is contemplating a new chapter elsewhere. An energetic enforcer who has lost a little value since joining Bayern in 2011.

"He is a great player with all the conditions to play in the team that he wants to" Barcelona's Gerard Pique

## Gareth BALE
Tottenham Hotspur

The midfielder's performances for Spurs have taken him to a new level this season – as indicated by his regular appearances in the ESM Team of the Month (see page 101). And despite a worrying collection of yellow cards for perceived diving, he remains favourite to be PFA and FWA Player of the Year.

But even though his side remain on course for a Champions League place next term – which is an important benchmark to satisfy the ambitions of the Wales international – the pulling power of Europe's elite has heightened speculation that a move will happen at some point.

Even with the uncertainty over the identity of their coach next term Real Madrid head the list of his admirers, along with Manchester United.

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy is a famously tough negotiator and he will go into any negotiations safe in the knowledge that Bale is under contract at White Hart Lane until 2016 – unlike Croatian midfielder Luka Modric, who joined Madrid last summer after entering the final year of his contract.

Bale is still only 23, and with recent fatherhood to contend with, another season at Spurs is a more likely option than a move away this summer. However, that will not dampen the speculation, nor keep a possible transfer fee within sensible limits.

## BENAT
### Real Betis

The Basque midfielder has been behind much of his side's best play in recent times, but a €20million buy-out clause is likely to deter most suitors.

## Christian BENTEKE
### Aston Villa

With the greatest of respect to relegation-threatened Villa, the Belgium international target man who joined from Genk last summer deserves a more prominent stage.

## Wilfried BONY
### Vitesse

The in-form Ivorian striker looks set to quit the Eredivisie and top names in Russia would gladly throw any amount of petro-dollars in his direction. His preference, however, is to play in England or Italy.

## Stefan KIESSLING
### Bayer Leverkusen

In sparkling goalscoring form for Bayer this term, he could replace Robert Lewandowski at Borussia Dortmund. Also attracting interest from the Premier League and Dynamo Kiev.

## Jeremy MENEZ
### Paris Saint-Germain

After falling behind Lucas, Javier Pastore and Ezequiel Lavezzi in the attacking-third hierarchy at PSG, the versatile France international apparently has told his agent to find him a new home.

## Adil RAMI
### Valencia

The French centre-back might have turned up his nose at an offer from Anzhi, but will not prove so hard to convince if a leading Premier League side tempted cash-strapped Valencia with a decent offer.

## SELCUK Inan
### Galatasaray

Milan are keen on the midfield general who has gone from strength to strength in the past two years. A battle of wills looks inevitable as Galatasaray describe him as "untransferable".

## Ashley WILLIAMS
### Swansea City

The Wales international centre-back has impressed as captain of the League Cup winners. Arsenal and Liverpool would both pay the £8million needed to prise him away.

## Ibrahim AFELLAY
### Barcelona

The Dutch midfielder is due to return to Barca at the end of his season-long loan at Schalke, but having proved his fitness following serious injury there will be any number of Premier League clubs willing to hire him.

## Asmir BEGOVIC
### Stoke City

The Bosnian goalkeeper is attracting interest from bigger Premier League clubs, not least Manchester United.

## Juan CUADRADO
### Udinese

The Colombian full-back, who is on loan at Fiorentina, could be the latest "investment" to reap a dividend for his parent club. Jose Mourinho is said to be a fan.

## Marouane FELLAINI
### Everton

The Belgian midfielder is admired by Chelsea and both Manchester clubs. They will come calling if Everton fail to finish in the top four.

## Stevan JOVETIC
### Fiorentina

The Montenegrin attacker has a few years left on his contract so only a hefty fee will tempt Fiorentina. But Arsenal, with a rebooted transfer kitty, head the list of admirers.

## Florent MALOUDA
### Chelsea

The forgotten man of Stamford Bridge has been training with Chelsea's reserves as he sees out the last year of his contract.

## Peter ODEMWINGIE
### West Bromwich Albion

After his aborted attempt to join QPR in the January window, a parting with West Brom seems best for all concerned. Wage demands may prove a sticking point, though.

## Bacary SAGNA
### Arsenal

The French right-back is coming to the end of his time in London. A return to his homeland beckons.

## Felipe SANTANA
### Borussia Dortmund

The Brazilian defender has never been more than a bit-part player in Dortmund. Covering for the injured Nevan Subotic recently may have given him the appetite for more.

## Ricky VAN WOLFSWINKEL
### Sporting Lisbon

The Dutch striker is keen to move on from Sporting, who only own 35 per cent of his registration. A move to the Premier League would delight the "investors" with the remaining 65 per cent.

# Youngsters on the move

The new kids on the up

Great Dane...Ajax are resigned to letting Eriksen go

### Younes BELHANDA
Montpellier

Close to moving to Fenerbahce or Internazionale in January, the Moroccan had to stay put because of disagreements over the fee. A big-time switch to England, Italy or Spain beckons.

### Sebastian CORCHIA
Sochaux

With over 150 French top-flight games under his belt, the attack-conscious 22-year-old right-back seems certain to join either a bigger Ligue 1 team, such as Lyon, or try his luck abroad.

### Antoine GRIEZMANN
Real Sociedad

Held in very high regard in Spain – Barcelona and Real Madrid have made enquiries in the past – but the 21-year-old French left-winger could be on his way to the Premier League.

### ISCO
Malaga

The midfielder penned a new contract at the turn of the year – which upped his release clause to €35million in readiness for a lucrative sale to Manchester City or Real Madrid.

> "Technically, he's one of the best players I've played with"
>
> Tottenham Hotspur's former Ajax defender Jan Vertonghen

### Christian ERIKSEN
Ajax

The Danish midfielder is likely to leave Amsterdam this summer after declining the offer of a new contract. The 21-year-old will attract interest from Premier League clubs Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool, while Barcelona have a long-standing interest in the player.

Ajax, though resigned to losing Eriksen, will accept a fee of around £15million safe in the knowledge that another Danish whizz-kid, teenager Viktor Fischer, is coming through the ranks in Amsterdam.

### Stefan DE VRIJ
Feyenoord

The central defender looks great value for money at just £8million and has built up a following among English scouts. But they will need to move quickly as Russian clubs are also circling.

### Lucas DIGNE
Lille

According to *France Football*, a Manchester United scout was following the left-back's performance during a recent France Under-20's game. PSG are on the case too.

### Nabil GHILAS
Moreirense

Earning plaudits for his goalscoring prowess in Portugal, the Marseille-born Franco-Algerian striker has a growing fan-club in Ligue 1 and in England. The 22-year-old represents a snip at €1million.

### Eliaquim MANGALA
Porto

Available for between €15 and €20million, the athletic France Under-21 central defender looks all set to be heading for Milan, according to the Roman daily *Corriere delo Sport*.

### MARQUINHOS
Roma

Barcelona are reported to be prepared to shell out €25million to secure the services of the Brazilian teenage centre-back, but Chelsea are also keen. Roma will surely not refuse such a fee.

### James RODRIGUEZ
Porto

The Colombian winger will not come cheap as he is the subject of an eye-watering €45million release clause. Not that it will put off the likes of Manchester United, PSG or Real Madrid.

### SON Heung-min
Hamburg

Despite the agent of the South Korean attacker speaking of "weekly contact" with big-name sides in England, Hamburg remain hopeful of extending his contract to 2016.

### Marc-Andre TER STEGEN
Borussia M'gladbach

On Marca TV a presenter recently insisted the Germany international had signed a pre-contract with Barcelona. While he may move this summer, the 20-year-old is more likely to wait until 2014.

### Christian ATSU
Porto

The left-winger recently broke into the senior Ghana side and is being watched by Premier League clubs.

### Etienne CAPOUE
Toulouse

The France international midfielder is being tracked by a number of leading English clubs, including Arsenal.

### Tom INCE
Blackpool

The England Under-21 winger, son of the recently appointed Blackpool manager Paul, almost re-joined Liverpool in January and will do so this summer if a fee can be agreed.

### Adam MAHER
AZ

The Moroccan-born Holland international is wanted by PSV and Ajax but they may find themselves gazumped by an English club.

### Bruno MARTINS INDI
Feyenoord

The versatile Holland international defender is being watched by a clutch of clubs and Feyenoord may not be able to resist an offer in the region of £6million.

### Charis MAVRIAS
Panathinaikos

The teenage midfielder has already made his senior debut for Greece and his progress is being followed by a number of clubs in England and Germany.

### James McCARTHY
Wigan Athletic

The Ireland midfielder has shone in a relegation-threatened Wigan side this season. Bigger clubs in the Premier League are eyeing him up.

### Juan QUINTERO
Pescara

The Colombian attacker starred at the South American Under-20s and is tipped to move to a bigger Serie A club this summer.

### Victor WANYAMA
Celtic

Arsenal head the list of those club's ready to sign the star of Celtic's run to the last 16 of the Champions League.

# Done Deals

The transfers that are already signed and sealed

Senior service...Zaha has already been capped by England

"Zaha is the best player in the league by a million miles"

Steve Bruce, manager of Championship rivals Hull City

### Wilfried ZAHA
Crystal Palace to Manchester United

Already a full England international, the 20-year-old Ivory Coast-born winger has all the necessary attributes to live up to his £15 million switch to Old Trafford: the amazing ball skills, a fantastic turn of pace and a willingness to throw down the gauntlet to defenders.

### Cristian CUEVAS
O'Higgins to Chelsea

The left-sided midfielder shone in the recent South American Under-20 Championship and his expected move to Udinese was bowled over by Chelsea.

### Filip DJURICIC
Heerenveen to Benfica

In spite of Heerenveen coach Marco Van Basten recommending the Serb midfielder to his alma mater, Milan, the 21-year-old settled for a life in Portugal.

### Hector HERRERA
Pachuca to Porto

Voted the best player at the prestigious Toulon Under-21 tournament last year, he is the complete box-to-box midfielder, an amalgam of drive, skill, energy and tactical appreciation.

### Mauro ICARDI
Sampdoria to Internazionale

Inter snapped up the 20-year-old Argentinian striker after making his mark in Serie A this season.

### Jan KIRCHHOFF
Mainz to Bayern Munich

The arrival in Bavaria of the Germany Under-21 was very much the work of director of sport Matthias Sammer, who remains a big fan of the centre-back from his days as DFB technical supremo.

### Fernando LLORENTE
Athletic Bilbao to Juventus

After 17 years in the red-and-white of Athletic, the Spain international controversially began divorce proceedings this term and will move to Juve on a Bosman in July.

### Christoph MORITZ
Schalke to Mainz

Once a favourite of coach Felix Magath at Schalke, the former Germany Under-21 defensive midfielder has not had the best of luck with injuries of late and now hopes to relaunch his career at overachieving Mainz.

### Diego REYES
Club America to Porto

Good on the ball and always thinking one step ahead, the young Mexican central defender or midfield anchor should be worth every cent of the US$10million paid for him. A winner of Olympic gold in 2012.

### Florian THAUVIN
Bastia to Lille

Lille's decision to enrol the 20-year-old attacking midfielder is entirely consistent with their policy to focus their recruitment on up-and-coming players from the French first and second tiers.

### WALLACE
Fluminense to Chelsea

The Premier League side moved impressively to sneak ahead of Serie A's Napoli, Udinese and Internazionale in the queue for the 18-year-old attacking right-back.

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SID LOWE
in Madrid

# Slaying the dragon

## Real's back-to-back *clasico* wins give them belief to reign in Europe

Victory at Old Trafford may have put Real Madrid in the last eight of the Champions League, but it was winning two *clasicos* within the space of five days in the build-up that has given supporters the belief that their team can become champions of Europe for a 10th time.

Real's 3-1 win against Barcelona at Camp Nou to secure a Spanish Cup Final date with Atletico Madrid was followed by a 2-1 slaying of their biggest rivals at the Santiago Bernabeu in La Liga. And while Barca may have remained 13 points clear after this latest reverse, you wouldn't have thought that the case to judge by the fallout.

"If the objective in hiring Jose Mourinho was to slay the [Barcelona] dragon, mission accomplished," wrote Juanma Trueba in the sports daily *AS* on the morning after the Spanish Cup clasico. Four days later his paper went further as a second successive victory drew the sweeping headline: "Real Madrid reign again." *AS* were not alone either, as everywhere there was talk about the balance of power tilting back towards the capital.

On the face of it, this was a bizarre thing to say – and not just because Madrid had taken the league title from Barcelona as recently as last season. Or even because a case could be made for saying that the league game did not really matter. While Mourinho made seven changes to his starting line-up for the league game, Barcelona seemed content to move the ball around without really going anywhere at the Santiago Bernabeu. And Real seemed content to let them. For a long time it was 1-1 and Barca were denied the chance to make it 2-2 when they had a clear penalty turned down in the last minute.

After the Cup defeat, Barca midfielder Xavi insisted "We've lost the least important of the [three] titles", while there is a chance that Real could still finish below city rivals Atletico for the first time since 1996 in La Liga.

However, a sense that the plates had shifted was understandable – this was about sensations as well as success.

Madrid had beaten Barcelona for two successive matches for the first time since 2008 – the second a game in which Madrid's focus was, at least in theory, trained very much on the forthcoming Champions League return leg against Manchester United.

"The 5-0 [defeat to Barcelona in November 2010] did us a lot of damage," said Madrid's assistant coach Aitor Karanka. "But now we feel confident when we face Barcelona." When it comes to head-to-head clashes, the sensation is very different to what it was then and so are the results. Barcelona no longer feel like such clear favourites.

In October 2011, Barca beat Real 3-1 at the Bernabeu, controlling the game and cutting the hosts open before their own fans, thus reinforcing their superiority. Since that defeat – which was not enough to prevent Mourinho's side from maintaining what would prove an unassailable lead at the top of the table – Madrid have played Barcelona seven times. This is the balance: a 2-1 victory at Camp Nou wrapped up the league title; a two-legged victory claimed the Spanish Super Cup (3-2 and 2-1); a two-legged victory won a place in the Final of the Spanish Cup (1-1 and 3-1); and two league games (a 2-2 draw at the Camp Nou and a 2-1 victory at the Bernabeu).

Mourinho had won just two of his first 11 *clasicos*, but since then, following the departure of Pep Guardiola, he has taken charge of five, winning three and drawing two.

Those are the figures; then there is the feeling. It was not just that Madrid defeated Barcelona twice in five days, it was that they deserved to. Even with that mistaken refereeing decision at the Bernabeu, Barcelona could not really make a case for having deserved more. In the two games, Lionel Messi had managed just one shot on target. In both matches, Madrid had created more chances. Barcelona's defensive vulnerability had been exposed and their creativity blunted.

### Worrying reading

The latest two *clasico* losses came off the back of Barcelona's Champions League defeat in Milan, where they also created little. The statistics in Italy made for worrying reading: Barcelona had 65 per cent of the possession but managed just two shots on target, neither of them even remotely dangerous. There was something sluggish about their play, a lack of fluidity in their passing and speed in the circulation of the ball that could not solely be explained by Jordi Roura's complaints that the pitch was "not worthy of the Champions League".

Roura, the Barcelona stand-in boss, also noted that his team had suffered a physical dip. On the one hand, that is normal in February, ready for peaks in March and April, and does not normally matter; on the other, you have to reach March and April still in the Champions League for that planning to prove successful. And that is on the assumption that the physical dip is reversible this time, that it explains such a damaging run.

Defeats by Milan and Madrid – three in four games, and deserved ones too – broke the taboo. For the first time, people asked how much impact the absence of coach Tito Vilanova was having on the side.

Because Vilanova is in America receiving treatment for cancer and because Barcelona sought both privacy and respect for him, there had been little talk about its footballing impact.

It felt more than a little insensitive to pose the question as his health was far more important. To suggest that his absence was a factor in a slip in form, even if not at first in results, ran the risk of looking like an accusation. To suggest

## JOSE MOURINHO'S COACHING RECORD

**He's in there somewhere...Sergio Ramos is swamped by his team-mates after scoring the winner in the Liga *clasico* at the Bernabeu**

that Roura was not sufficiently qualified felt unfair on a man whose friend and boss was seriously ill and who had stepped in to help out, thrust into a difficult position. Roura remained adamant that he had no aspirations to be a number one.

Now, though, the question was asked. Barcelona had been without their coach for a month. Vilanova, undergoing chemotherapy in New York, was said to be in constant contact with Catalonia, but even if that is true – and it must be difficult while undergoing chemotherapy – it is not the same. However many videos of matches and training sessions Vilanova watched, however closely he followed his team's progress, even if he was in constant contact with Roura, that was bound to have an effect.

How could the intensity and dynamics of training possibly be the same? How could the management of matches? Suggestions that Barcelona did not need a coach, made with startling regularity over the last four years, have now been shot down.

And then there was the emotional impact, expressed in stark human terms by Barca's Argentina defender Javier Mascherano when he said: "Our boss hasn't gone to New York on holiday."

How could his absence possibly not have an impact? From the club's point of view, how could they not give priority to the person?

"Tito is and will be our manager," president Sandro Rosell said. "Even if it means winning nothing. Of course we miss him: he is our leader." WS

> "Things change – football is about runs, cycles, fashions...psychologically the team has been strengthened by the *clasicos*" Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos

HOWARD JOHNSON
in Paris

# Beckham the brand-builder

## PSG's new signing will have more impact off the pitch than on it

**Appreciative...Beckham salutes the fans after his debut for Paris Saint-Germain against Marseille**

Let's face it, the French have always had a love-hate relationship with the British. And David Beckham's arrival in Paris has only served to heighten this sense of emotional confusion. On the one hand, the Englishman's signing by Paris Saint-Germain has been hailed by the natives as proof positive that their city really is the most fashionable on the planet and that PSG the most glamorous football club in the world. On the other, Beckham's five-month deal has been vilified as nothing more than a PR stunt, a tax dodge and an unbelievably crass move that has no footballing merit at all.

Of course, no matter how many column inches have been generated – and let's face it, it's more like column miles – Beckham himself has simply sailed through it all as he always has done: relentlessly polite, perma-grinning, seemingly oblivious to the polemic that his presence has caused.

Beckham has unquestionably raised PSG's worldwide profile. After Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, there is no other player in football who transcends the sport, with genuine appeal across different generations and continents.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic? Are you kidding? There are plenty of people in France today who don't know who the Swede is. Beckham is known everywhere, and not even for being a footballer, but simply for being David Beckham. Whatever he does generates incredible worldwide media coverage. This has inestimable value for PSG as they try to raise their profile around the globe.

But football-wise, Beckham can surely only ever be a bit-part player as PSG's glittering new future is written. He has, let's not forget, only signed until the end of this season. He spent five years at Los Angeles Galaxy working on their ambitious project, and unless there's a possibility of an extension to his current PSG deal (and nobody has raised that notion for the time being) he'll be off, either into retirement or into another publicity-savvy footballing venture. The PSG experience could easily become a small footnote on his formidable CV.

Let's not forget, either, Beckham has 37-year-old legs. And despite self-deprecatingly claiming that he's lost no pace because he never had any in the first place, the truth is that he's never going to dominate games from first minute to last now. PSG aren't short of quality in the middle of the park, either. Jeremy Menez, Blaise Matuidi, Marco Verratti, Javier Pastore, Thiago Motta and Lucas Moura have all arrived in France since Qatari money turned PSG into a serious outfit back in 2011.

> "I never expect to start a game because we've got many great players in the team and I'm just very happy to be part of the squad"
> David Beckham

Beckham's first cameo, a 14-minute slot when he replaced Pastore at the end of the home game against Marseille at the end of February, probably said as much about what Beckham brings to PSG as anything else. A proposed debut a week earlier away to Sochaux was nixed on the basis that Becks wasn't yet match fit. What? Not ready to play, say, 14 minutes despite the protestations from the player himself that he felt in good shape?

The more cynical might argue that the idea of "nice guy David" making his first appearance at home to PSG's biggest rivals – who just so happen to feature English "bad boy" Joey Barton in their line-up – offered about a gazillion times more PR appeal.

Beckham, of course, was solid and reliable, sitting deep in front of his own back four without ever giving the world's media anything football-oriented to write home about. But that's not really what he's there for, is it. Ancelotti won't be building a team around Beckham, but the Qataris may very well be building a brand. So don't be surprised if David Beckham becomes both a PSG and a Qatar 2022 World Cup ambassador before very long.

### Long-term benefit

All of this could, of course, be the financial upside for Beckham in the long term. While he may be donating all of his £150,000-a-week salary to a local children's charity in Paris, there are those who claim this is financially convenient.

Leaving his family in the UK and only signing a short-term deal keeps Beckham's worldwide earnings for 2013, estimated at £20m, out of the clutches of the French tax authorities, who claim a whopping 75 per cent on all earnings of those who are resident in their country. Once Beckham's footballing time in France comes to an end, the PSG connection will give him a legitimate reason to be involved with the Qatari moneymen in the future.

Cynical? Maybe, maybe not. But the best thing David Beckham can do is prove the naysayers wrong and perform out of his skin on the pitch for the next five months.

Nothing has proved to be beyond this exceptional personality throughout his career, but becoming the biggest star of "*Les Galactiques*" in the twilight of his days would possibly be the greatest achievement of them all. WS

KLAAS-JAN DROPPERT
in The Hague

# Van Gaal puts faith in youth

## National coach plots revolution with selection of youngsters

**Stepping up...Holland debutant Daley Blind (left) tussles with Alessandro Diamanti of Italy**

Marco Van Ginkel, Adam Maher, Stefan De Vrij, Bruno Martins Indi, Jordy Clasie and Daley Blind are hardly well-known names in the wider world of football. However, within a year everybody will have heard of them, because these youngsters are likely to form the backbone of Holland's 2014 World Cup squad.

There is something of a revolution going on with the national side and coach Louis Van Gaal, a man who is often regarded as inflexible, is the one behind the changes.

The 61-year-old has studied Bert Van Marwijk's disastrous Euro 2012 campaign – in which Holland lost all three games – and has also learned lessons from his own past. In his first spell as *Oranje* coach, Van Gaal failed to qualify for the 2002 World Cup, mainly because he stubbornly kept faith with his former Ajax proteges who had won the Champions League seven years earlier.

While Van Gaal hasn't brushed aside his traditional 4-3-3 system completely, he now picks the players he needs for the occasion. So if you're a reserve at your club (Maarten Stekelenburg), have transfer troubles (Wesley Sneijder) or private problems (Rafael Van der Vaart), don't expect a call. Van Gaal has plenty of options – as was shown in February's friendly against Italy, when the youngest Dutch side in almost 100 years, with an average age of 22, dominated and the Italians were lucky to snatch a 1-1 draw.

> "In my eyes, the Eredivisie is at least equivalent to Serie A...maybe even stronger"
>
> Holland coach Louis Van Gaal

According to Van Gaal, five players are safe for next year's World Cup in Brazil: Robin Van Persie, Arjen Robben, skipper Sneijder, Kevin Strootman and Nigel De Jong. For the other places, there are plenty of new kids on the block.

A lot of these youngsters have taken an unorthodox route to the top. The majority come from Feyenoord and might never have made the first team had the Rotterdam club not been in dire financial straits and forced to turn to youth.

Clasie, a 5ft 7in midfielder, was deemed too small and loaned to satellite club Excelsior before getting a second chance at De Kuip. Lisbon-born Martins Indi, who came to Holland as a toddler, wasn't even on the radar before impressing against Dynamo Kiev in a Champions League qualifier in August. Full-back Daryl Janmaat, who has three caps, failed to graduate from the club's youth set-up and moved to Den Haag and Heerenveen before being bought back this season.

Then there is Ruben Schaken, a 30-year-old winger who spent most of his career at second division Cambuur and Veendam before joining top-flight strugglers VVV Venlo and then moving to Feyenoord in 2010. He struggled in Rotterdam for a long time before finally establishing himself; he scored on his Holland debut against Andorra in October.

### Political issue

There are similar cases at other clubs. Full-back Blind, a debutant against Italy, is still waiting for a new contract offer at Ajax, who appear to have more faith in Denmark's Nicolai Boilesen. There is also a political issue with Blind being the son of Van Gaal's assistant Danny Blind, the former Ajax captain and Holland defender, who was a director at the club before becoming a victim, with Van Gaal, of Johan Cruyff's revolution.

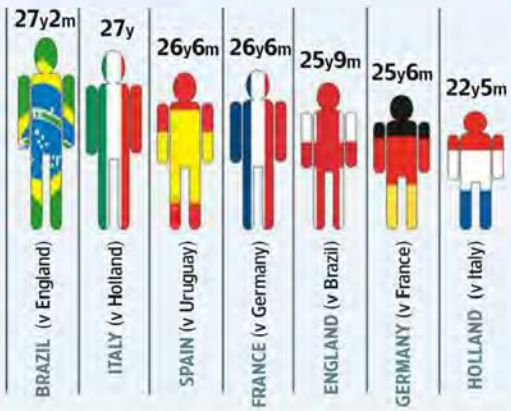
At PSV, Jeremain Lens took a while to make his mark. Playing at AZ, he was sent to NEC before finally breaking through. Now the Surinam-born attacker has already scored five goals in nine games for Holland. Another Eindhoven winger, Luciano Narsingh, was making an impact with the *Oranje* before being injured, but he was often left on the bench at PSV by coach Dick Advocaat.

Ricardo Van Rhijn (Ajax) ,Jetro Willems (PSV), Canadian-born Jonathan De Guzman (Swansea City), Van Ginkel (Vitesse), Maher (AZ) and former Liberian refugee Ola John (Benfica) are also contenders.

And just when you start getting used to these names, Van Gaal begins picking the next generation, naming midfielder Tonny Vilhena and winger Jean Paul Boetius, both 18-year-olds at Feyenoord, and Utrecht's 20-year-old defender Mike Van der Hoorn in his preliminary squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Estonia and Romania. WS

## NATIONAL TEAMS' AVERAGE AGES

**(for games played February 6, 2013)**



**TIM VICKERY**
in Rio de Janeiro

# Tragedy in the Libertadores

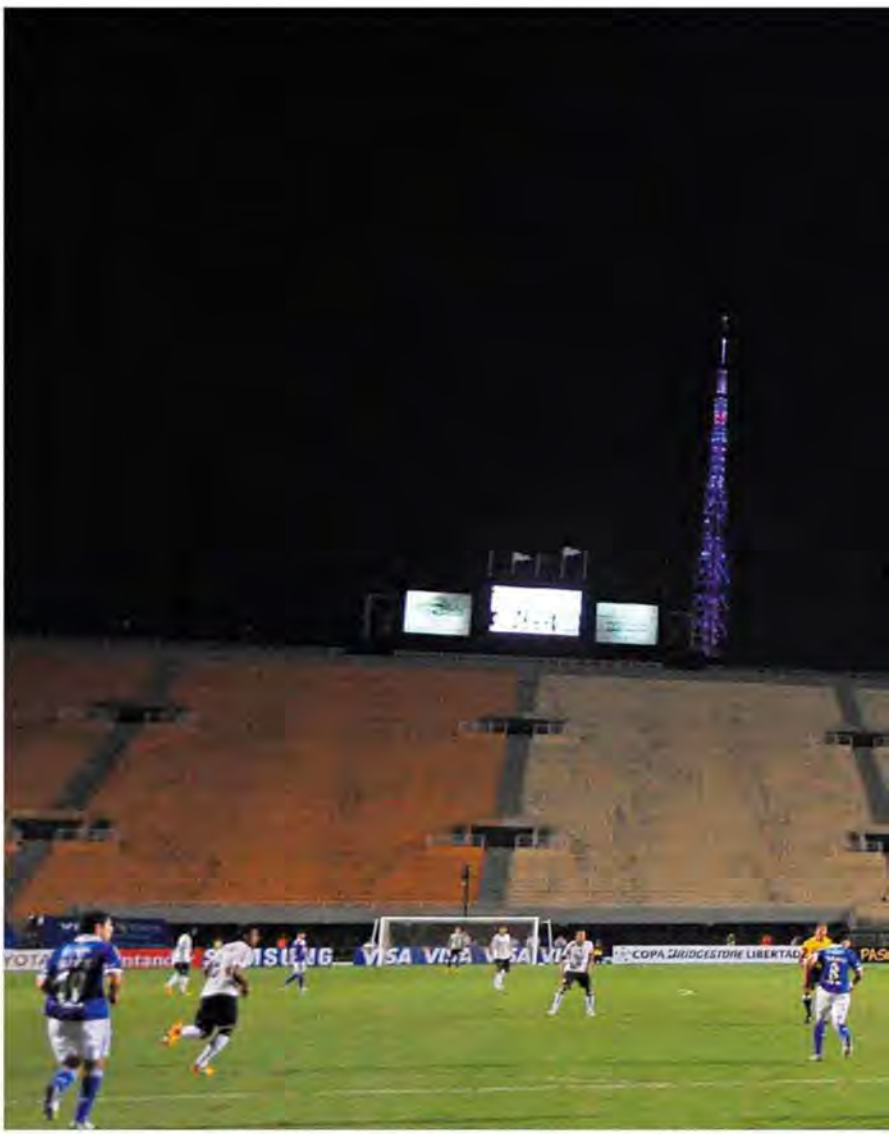
## Stadium safety in the spotlight after fan's death in Bolivia

Just as 2012 ended in triumph for world club champions Corinthians, so 2013 started in tragedy. After scoring an early goal away to San Jose of Bolivia in the first game in their defence of the Libertadores Cup, a flare set off from the part of the ground where the visiting support was massed struck and killed Kevin Beltran, a 14-year-old Bolivian.

Twelve Brazilian fans were detained by the Bolivian police, with two accused of setting off the flare and the others of complicity. A few days later, back in Sao Paulo, a teenager claimed responsibility and presented himself to the local police. His confession, however, was greeted with some scepticism in both Brazil and Bolivia. Was this primarily a manoeuvre to free the incarcerated Brazilians? As a minor, the young man cannot face extradition to Bolivia. And even if he is guilty, questions remain. For example, he is from a poor background, so how did he fund the trip to Bolivia, let alone buy the flares?

With no doubt that the flare was fired by someone among the travelling support, CONMEBOL acted swiftly, ordering Corinthians to play their home games in this season's Libertadores behind closed doors.

There was some unwise talk inside the Corinthians camp of pulling out of the competition in protest at the punishment, but common sense prevailed and the home game against Millonarios of Colombia went ahead without incident. Four supporters took legal action to ensure their right to enter the Pacaembu stadium, which was otherwise eerily empty.




**Punishment...Corinthians (in white) play Millonarios of Colombia behind closed doors in the Libertadores**

### Up and running

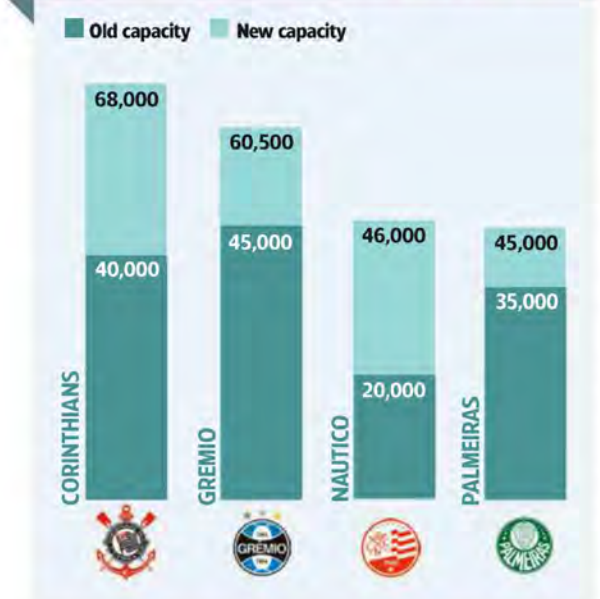
Meanwhile, the first of the 2014 World Cup grounds are now up and running, providing an eloquent symbol of how modern trends will change Brazil's fan culture. In Fortaleza, the Castelao stadium was inaugurated in December and staged its first matches in late January, swiftly followed by the Mineirao in Belo Horizonte.

However, there were teething troubles with both grounds – especially the latter, where the company administering the stadium were fined £330,000 for a lack of water and toilet paper, the closure of bars and the late opening of car parks.

The process may be behind an ideally constructed schedule as far as 2014 is concerned, but it is clear that new stadiums, built to modern specifications, are coming to the Brazilian game. It is also apparent that this is not solely restricted to the World Cup. In Sao Paulo, Palmeiras hope to inaugurate their new ground this year, while further south Gremio have already done so, and neither of these constructions are part of the 2014 project.

But as fans elsewhere have discovered, there is a price to pay for such progress – usually literally in terms of rising ticket prices – and it will be interesting to see how Brazilian

### INCREASED CAPACITY OF NEW CLUB STADIUMS



**Aftermath...injured spectators are treated after a barrier gave way when Gremio fans celebrated a goal in the first game at the new Gremio Arena**

football deals with this. For all the recent economic progress, millions are already being priced out of the stadiums. While price increases in England, for example, were made from a position of strength, with crowds rising, this is not the case in Brazil, where average attendances in last year's national championship were around 13,000.

> "I would swap the world championship for the life of the child. I'm so sorry about what happened"
>
> Corinthians coach Tite on the death of a fan in Bolivia

Furthermore, it seems evident that increased comfort is often gained at the expense of losing atmosphere. Gremio sought to avoid this by including a standing area behind one of the goals when they built their new home. This was seen as especially important since it would allow for the continuation of one of the club's great traditions in their old Olimpico stadium – the "avalanche", where a goal for the home side is greeted by a huge rush of fans down to the bottom of the stand.

But an avalanche at the Olimpico is one thing; in the new Gremio Arena it is quite another.

At the end of January, Gremio played their first competitive match in their new stadium, a Libertadores qualifier against LDU Quito of Ecuador. A goal by Elano brought the house down – and the avalanche almost ended in tragedy, as barriers gave way and eight people were injured.

In line with the modern conception of having supporters as close to the pitch as possible, in the new stadium the slope of the stands is that much steeper, so a crowd celebration that was relatively safe in the old ground is unthinkably hazardous in the new one. It is perhaps somewhat worrying that no one seems to have realised this before the event.

Gremio admitted defeat and announced that they will now be installing seats. WS

NICK BIDWELL
in Munich

# Bayern's time

## Bundesliga leaders end their Dortmund jinx with cup victory

**Beaten...Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller cannot get near Robben's winner for Bayern**

And with one bound Bayern were free. After failing to beat Borussia Dortmund in their last six encounters, a sorry sequence made up of five consecutive defeats and a 1-1 draw in the Bundesliga late last year, Bayern at last managed to exorcise their yellow-and-black demons, beating their arch-rivals 1-0 in the quarter-finals of the German Cup.

The triumphant roar that echoed around the Allianz Arena when Arjen Robben scored the only goal of the game a couple of minutes before the break said it all. More than securing a place in the semi-finals and keeping alive the dream of a Champions League/Bundesliga/German Cup treble, here was a victory which went far deeper into the soul of Bayern. It was a win for pride, for prestige and the re-establishment of the club as the most powerful in the country.

With Dortmund dominating domestically for the past two years and the punctured Bavarians unable to lay a glove on them, the net result was always going to be a chastened and reinvigorated Bayern coming back even stronger this term. And so it has proved, with the slick and unified men in red going into tour-de-force mode right from the off and opening up a 17-point lead in the table by early March.

They are an insatiable lot at Bayern. Most clubs would be overjoyed to be on course to regain the league title and to be going great guns in the Champions League. Yet at Bayern they have to be the German number one in every shape and form, and because Dortmund had constantly beaten them in recent times the banquet was missing its main course. Hence the relief at finally smashing their Dortmund hoodoo. No more can the Ruhr boys insist they have Bayern's number.

### Native omnipotence

In Bayern's world, they are nothing if not enjoying native omnipotence and here lies the reason why key individuals at the club – president Uli Hoeness for one – found the 5-2 German Cup Final hammering by Dortmund last May even more painful than wasting home advantage in their 2012 Champions League showpiece loss to Chelsea.

Given the tribal nature of football and the high stakes involved, it's inevitable that Bayern and Dortmund, Germany's two powerhouses of the moment, will at times indulge in unsavoury turf wars. And the pair have been trading vicious verbal blows ever since the cup quarter-final.

As has become common in such spats, Hoeness was on hand to provide the spark, cheekily reminding everyone that his team had "restored their supremacy in Germany". Even though he paid tribute to Dortmund for forcing Bayern to up their game, Borussia coach Jurgen Klopp, never the most stoical of losers, was soon unleashing a rhetorical blast of his own.

"Bayern approach football in the same way that the Chinese deal with industry," stormed Klopp. "They look at what others are doing and then they copy it with other people and more money. Then they overtake you."

Klopp was probably unwise to respond to the Hoeness mind games, but his diatribe was just a more colourful way of dressing up all the old anti-Bayern arguments, the school of thought which has the Bavarians as too rich, too powerful and too dominant in the transfer market – and not forgetting too successful.

Klopp has another highly specific reason to be annoyed with Bayern: the rumour that the club have done a deal with Dortmund's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski to bring him in on a Bosman at the end of his contract in 2014.

The accusations of industrial espionage and plagiarism were not all to the liking of Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes, who clearly took exception to the suggestion that their all-conquering work this season was solely as a result of reproducing the Dortmund philosophy of high pressing and quick-fire transitions from defence into attack.

"Bayern have been around longer than Jurgen Klopp and they always have had their own style of play," argued Heynckes. "It's very important to show respect in both victory and defeat. But especially when you lose." WS

> **"Bayern are certainly not a club who can tell us how to behave in defeat. It's not as if they've quite mastered it themselves"**
> Borussia Dortmund's general manager Joachim Watzke

## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

### THE GREAT REVENGE

***Kicker*** **described goalscorer Arjen Robben as Bayern's hero in the German Cup quarter-final clash as they beat Dortmund for the first time in six games.**

**Explaining that "for days there was no other issue other than the cup cracker between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund", the magazine said the game had been an "enthralling 90 minutes". While Dortmund defender Mats Hummels – absent with flu – was "sorely missed", it was "the magnificent leadership of Robben" that clinched victory for the hosts.**

BRIAN HOMEWOOD
in Berne

# Gattuso takes Sion challenge

## Italian midfielder given coaching role by trigger-happy owner

Simply firing coaches is old hat for Christian Constantin, the eccentric architect, former goalkeeper and extreme skier who is president of Swiss Super League side Sion. Rather than just sack his latest victim, Victor Munoz, Constantin decided to humiliate the Spaniard as well by making him take a minor scouting role.

Munoz became Sion's fourth coaching casualty of the season when he was stripped of his post after just four games, following a 4-0 defeat by Thun. In his place, Constantin promoted Gennaro Gattuso to the role of player-coach, making it sound as though the former Milan and Italy midfield hard man would be leading some sort of players' co-operative.

"Following Sion's disastrous performance against FC Thun, and in the face of the lack of effort showing in the team, the board have decided to make the players face their responsibilities," read a club statement. "To do this, from now until further notice, they will take charge of their own affairs. The club entrusts the responsibility for the group to its captain, Gennaro Gattuso."

Constantin has tended to side with the players whenever they have clashed with their coach this season – which seems to have happened frequently.

Sebastien Fournier left in September after he was reprimanded for accusing three players of spending a night on the town before a league game. His successor, Michel Decastel, was then dismissed in October after Constantin "detected differences and tensions within the team". Pierre-Andre Schurmann was hired "in order to ease tensions and restore a positive group at the end of the first phase of the championship", but he was given only a two-month contract, which Constantin decided not to renew. Munoz then arrived in December.

Gattuso, 35, does not hold a coaching licence so Sion will have to find someone who does to sit on the bench in the role of official team boss, but that should be a mere fly in the ointment for a man such as Constantin.

**In 1997, Christian Constantin got a Sion game away to Spartak Moscow replayed on the grounds that the goals at the Russian side's stadium were too small – the crossbars were 8cm lower than they should have been**

### High cost

At 57, Constantin – who likes to go skiing with one of the teams who take part in the famous Glacier Patrol high-altitude endurance race – is now just over 10 years into his second stint as president. The first began when he was only 35, lasted five years and brought the club two league titles and three Swiss Cup wins. However, with more than 100 signings made during that period, the cost was too high and when Sion failed to qualify for the group stage of the Champions League in 1997 Constantin quit.

By the time he came back, Sion had hit rock bottom and been demoted to the third tier due to their financial difficulties. But that didn't trouble Constantin, either. He took the case to court and managed to get the team moved up into the second division, even though the competition had started three months earlier.

In 2004 he was given a two-and-a-half-year ban for kicking a linesman in the testicles over the awarding of a controversial penalty in a game at Kriens. So it was back to court, where he managed to drag the case on for four years, eventually getting away with a four-month ban and £14,000 fine. Not satisfied with that, he defied a FIFA transfer ban by signing several new players in the summer of 2011 and even took on UEFA after Sion were kicked out of the Europa League for fielding them in a qualifying-round tie against Celtic.

Constantin took the case to a Swiss civil court, a cardinal sin in the eyes of both FIFA and UEFA, and he eventually lost. Under pressure from FIFA, the Swiss league then deducted 36 points from Sion, which should have ensured certain relegation last season. However, fate smiled on Constantin once again as Neuchatel Xamax were expelled from the league due to the financial irregularities committed by their owner, Bulat Chagaev. Neuchatel were officially placed last, with Sion ninth.

They still had to face a relegation play-off – and beat Aarau over two legs amid more controversy. Their opponents complained that Sion were able to field captain Serey Die even though he been banned for eight matches for slapping a ballboy in the face. The Ivorian midfielder appealed and, under the competition rules, was allowed to continue playing until the hearing.

The coach who guided Sion through the relegation play-off games was Vladimir Petkovic, who has since left to take charge of Lazio in Italy. Well-known in Swiss football, it is possible that had he stayed there might have been a lot more stability at the club this season.

"Picking a coach is rather like buying a melon," says Constantin, who has employed 29 of them in his second stint alone. "They may look nice on the outside, but you only really find out what they're like when you take them home and open them up." WS

**United...Gattuso (second right) and his Sion team-mates celebrate a Swiss Cup quarter-final victory over Lausanne**

JONATHAN DYSON
in Kuala Lumpur

# Investing for the good of the nation

## Big-spending Johor DT are rejuvenating the domestic game

**Backing... Johor DT fans are buying into the project and get in the mood for a Super League game**

In the 12th minute of a Malaysian Super League game in February, with the home team Johor Darul Takzim already a goal down against LionsXII, midfielder Simone Del Nero ghosted into the penalty area unmarked and met a deep cross from the left wing with a header that flew into the bottom corner of the net to equalise. He promptly stripped off his shirt and, waving it in the air, sprinted straight to the Johor DT bench where he greeted the local FA president with a passionate hug.

In any part of the world such a celebration straight after a goal would be unusual; but in Malaysia, where state FAs are largely run by uncommitted and often corrupt politicians, it was a particularly surreal sight.

Yet thanks to the unique vision of Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim – the 28-year-old Crown Prince of Johor state, who recently became its FA president – things are changing, fast.

Tunku Ismail has made it his personal mission to spark a revolution in the fortunes of Johor DT – as well as the region's football as a whole, including its inter-state competitions and youth football – and the impact of his changes appear to be providing a major boost not only locally but for the Malaysian game as a whole.

Ever since a series of major match-fixing scandals were exposed in 1994, Malaysian football has suffered with low crowds and poor quality football dominated by the long-ball game. Tunku Ismail says the inspiration to try to turn things around came when he went to a Johor DT home game early last year.

"There were hardly any fans there," he recalls. "Football is my passion, so this really touched me. It made me realise something really had to be done.

"So I met my father the following day and he gave me his blessing to take over the Johor FA."

Tunku Ismail immediately took a hands-on approach – which explains his presence in the team dugout – and his first act was to remove all the politicians from the Johor FA committee. "I cleared out all the mess and I elected people who can really contribute something to the FA," he explains.

### High-calibre Europeans

Fandi Ahmad, who is widely regarded as one of Asia's most successful players and coaches of all time, was appointed Johor DT's coach in January, before the start of the 2013 campaign, and he has brought in two high-calibre European players in Del Nero, formerly of Lazio, and Dani Guiza, a Euro 2008 winner with Spain. And they have been joined by several top Malaysian players, including national captain Safiq Rahim.

While Johor DT's annual budget – at around £6.45million – is more than three times that of the average Super League club, Tunku Ismail stresses that the club only want to sign the right type of player.

"We need big names, players with history that will create an impact," says Tunku Ismail. "But we also want players who won't be here just for the holiday and still have the desire for new

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: SOUTH-EAST ASIA

**FIFA rankings as of 14.02.13**

Photo: Johor DT

challenges. Del Nero and Guiza have all these attributes. They may be 31 and 32 respectively but they still have quality and also hunger."

Although Del Nero has missed a number of games through injury so far this season, the celebration which greeted his first goal for the club – the equaliser against LionsXII for which he was, inevitably, booked – suggests his commitment to the cause is as strong as that of Tunku Ismail. Guiza, meanwhile,

> "The style of play at Johor DT is similar to Spanish football - it's pass, pass, pass"
> Ex-Spain international David Guiza

scored six goals in his first nine games for the club, including a spectacular 40-yard free-kick at Kelantan, the domestic treble winners last season.

### Fluid style

Crucially, Johor DT's fluid style of play under Ahmad is a stark contrast to the norm over recent years in the Super League. Ahmad says: "We have changed the way football is played at Johor a lot. We like to do a lot of short passing now.

"We have the type of players who can do this really well, and the Malaysian players learn a lot from playing alongside people like Del Nero and Guiza."

The Johor DT crowds are now flooding back, with every home game a 30,000 sell-out so far this campaign. Tunku Ismail says the club – who were known simply as Johor FC before being renamed before the start of this season – have become the first in Malaysia to appoint a marketing director and have grown their number of Facebook fans from 300 last season to around 50,000. He also says he plans to increase the stadium's capacity to 40,000 and create extra revenues through merchandise sales. He also wants to attract global sponsors, citing Emirates as an example of the type of partner he would like.

But far from creating an overwhelming dominance, the revolution at Johor DT appears to be inspiring a rejuvenation in domestic football across Malaysia. This season's race for the Super League title looks set to be fiercely competitive, with just one point separating the top five after the first eight games of the season. Johor DT were in fourth place at the end of February, with ATM FA top.

ATM coach B Sathianathan says: "What Johor DT are doing is very good for Malaysian football. Players like Del Nero and Guiza are bringing a new dimension to the game here, helping lift the level of quality. They are encouraging other Super League teams, showing them the right investment will bring success."

ATM have two overseas players of their own, in Argentinian midfielder Bruno Martelotto and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines striker Marlon Alex James, while T-Team have signed former Holland midfielder George Boateng and ex-Republic of Ireland striker Caleb Folan. Average Super League crowds across the country are now up by an estimated 30 per cent this season.

### Inspiring youngsters

For Malaysia's national coach, Datuk K Rajagopal, the revival of the country's top flight is also helping inspire more young players to enter the game professionally in a country where the match-fixing scandals and relatively low wages have discouraged many youngsters from pursuing football as a career.

"Younger players definitely see more potential here now," says Rajagopal. "They are keen to take the new opportunities. All this will help the national team."

Johor DT are planning to open an academy and are using none other than Johan Cruyff as a consultant, but Tunku Ismail says that for the revival to continue it is vital players are paid consistently.

"When an association fails to pay its players for three or four months, that's when you open the doors to match fixing," he says. "So we are making sure all our players at Johor are paid on time every month, and we hope other FAs will do the same." WS

**Celebration...shirtless Del Nero hugs Tunku Ismail after equalising against LionsXII**

Photo: Sports247.my

**Plan...Johor DT prepare to take a free-kick during the 2-2 draw with LionsXII**

Photo: Johor DT

STEVE MENARY

# Smaller field boosts hope

## Island Games offer the chance of a first-ever medal

The decision to stage this year's biennial Island Games outside Europe for the first time may have decimated an event which regularly features 16 men's football teams, but the decision has certainly boosted Greenland's hopes of some success in their only regular international outing.

Greenland have missed just one tournament since football was introduced to the Games in 1989 and they are one of just four confirmed entrants so far – along with hosts Bermuda, the Falkland Islands and the Norwegian island of Froya – for the competition from July 13 to 19.

Greenland's side traditionally comprises mainly local players as Greenlanders who venture overseas into an alien, sometimes urban culture, often get homesick and quickly return.

Gazza Zeeb, a midfielder with Danish third-tier side Svendborg, is one of the rarities, while defender Niklas Kreutzmann used to play in the Danish second division for Aarhus Fremand until he hung his boots up at the age of 31 to concentrate on his dental practice in Frederikshavn.

Before flying to the Bermudian capital of Hamilton for the Games, the squad will have a training camp in Denmark and matches are being arranged against Danish lower-league clubs. These games will be vitally important as they, like the Island Games matches, will be played on grass – which is a surface that Greenlanders are not used to playing on.

"All our full-size pitches are of sand or small stones," explains Greenland's manager, Toennes Berthelsen. "There are few grass pitches, probably less than five – and only in very small places where sheep herders live."

Photo courtesy of Edel

**Minimum requirement...the artificial pitch in Qaqortoq is one of only two on the island and is not full size**

> Greenland ladies won football medals at the Island Games two years ago, taking bronze in the Isle of Wight

### World's largest island

There isn't even a single full-size artificial pitch on what is the world's largest island. But even though 80 per cent of Greenland is covered in ice, the Arctic islanders love their football.

Although Greenland gained greater self-rule in 2008, Denmark remains in control of its foreign affairs, security and financial policy in consultation with a home-rule government. Until greater independence, the Football Association of Greenland (GBU) cannot join FIFA and access funding for much-needed infrastructure such as artificial pitches.

At present, the GBU's annual budget is around €150,000. Although the GBU severed ties with the Danish association in 1996, the Danes secured US$400,000 from FIFA's Goal programme towards a US$500,000 artificial pitch in Qaqortoq. However, the pitch is not full size and Qaqortoq only has one club, K-1933. The only other artificial pitch is in the capital, Nuuk, and that is even smaller.

Berthelsen is raising funds for another small artificial pitch, measuring 20metres by 40metres, in Maniitsoq and says: "We have collected some funds but not enough to press the button. The total cost is €47,000. We still need €20,000."

What the GBU needs is a full-size artificial pitch in a major population centre such as Nuuk, where a quarter of Greenlanders live, in order to tempt foreign teams to visit. Danish club side Herning toured in the 1970s, but the only other visitors have been from the Faroe Islands.

"That dream has been there for many years," says Berthelsen.

A proposal was put forward in the Greenlandic parliament in 2011 for full-size artificial pitches to be built in Iluissat, Nuuk and Sisimiut, but this came to nothing. The GBU hopes to revive the idea after elections later this year. WS

## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

**Greenland is a self-governing part of Denmark. It is the largest island in the world and the least densely populated.**

**Size** 836,109 square miles
**Population** 57,695
**Capital** Nuuk
**Language** Greenlandic Inuit, Danish
**Religion** Evangelical Lutheran, spiritual Inuit beliefs

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# Quantity but not quality

## The latest MLS season may not be one to remember

Now in its 18th season, Major League Soccer is a league with ambitions, and by 2022 commissioner Don Garber believes it will rank among the best in the world. He carries that message – which he admits is "bold" – wherever he goes now, and points to increased investment in youth development, facilities and an agreement which will permit MLS academy coaches to become part of the French Federation's coaching certification programme as proof that the ambition is more than mere words.

The Professional Referees Organisation has also been set-up – although, for reasons which defy explanation, English referee Peter Walton has been brought in to show Americans how to officiate in a move that is a gratuitous slap in the face for US referees, whose standards are remarkably good.

While Garber's talk of coach and player development is all very well, it cannot disguise the fact that he is dodging the crucial issue: MLS has not a cat in hell's chance of competing with the world's best leagues unless it abandons its strict financial controls, known as the "single-entity" system.

By cautiously limiting what each club can spend, the single-entity set-up has ensured that the league has avoided killing itself with wild inter-club competitive spending. On the one hand, Garber states flatly that the league cannot afford "to destroy the financial balance" that has allowed it to survive and grow. Yet on the other he is, in effect, saying that the days of being satisfied with simple survival are over. Only the best will do now.

However, for a "world's elite" label to be acquired, the monetary shackles will have to be thrown off if that 2022 rendezvous is to be kept.

**Bad mistake**

Simply repeating the wish as a mantra, but not getting down to the nitty-gritty of the money, is an odd omission for Garber, who is much more of a financial man than a soccer guy. His comments on the sport itself rarely carry conviction. Until now he has been careful not to make too many of them, but after 13 years as commissioner he seems to feel entitled to voice some opinions. This is a bad mistake. Repeating bold predictions, constantly going on about all the "passionate fans" of MLS, and hiring an obscure British referee to do a job that Americans can do perfectly well for themselves betrays a damaging naivety.

But Garber is simply bringing to the fore a problem in the MLS structure that could be solved quite quickly and with only a small amount of money. The league needs a top man – not a foreigner, please! – a co-commissioner, who can speak knowledgeably and with authority about soccer issues. Not just a spokesman, but someone with the power to make and enforce soccer decisions. Without such a guiding hand, the validity of much of what Garber is outlining must be questionable.

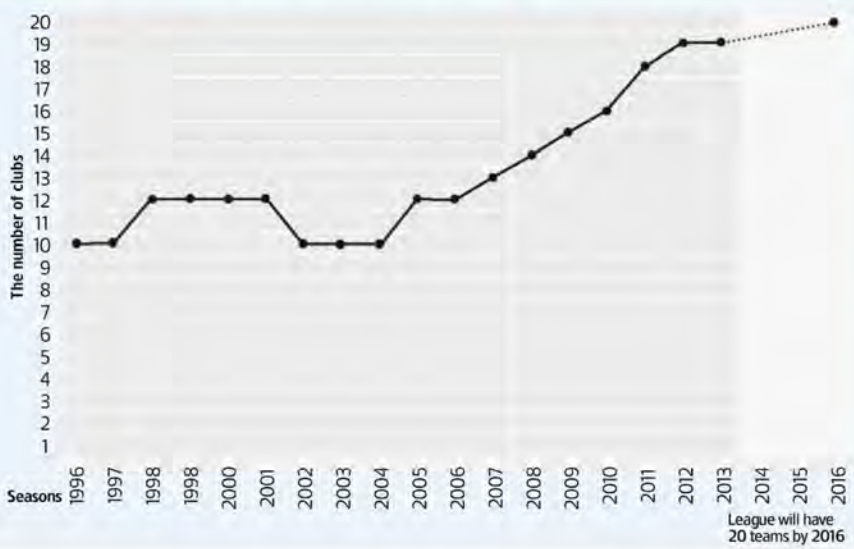
Life after Beckham...LA Galaxy (in white) begin the new MLS season with a 4-0 win over Chicago Fire

This year, for the first time since 2004, MLS has no new teams or new stadiums to announce, and these two factors may have an adverse effect on attendances. The adding of new franchises and the building of new soccer-specific stadiums have been key to the bolstering of MLS crowds. The average attendance now stands at 18,801 and is the seventh highest in the world, ahead of France and only just behind Mexico.

While the league remains at 19 clubs, there are five new coaches and a slew of new players, although none exactly in the star class. The most dazzling name has gone, but few believe the absence of David Beckham will make much difference to the league.

This is another area where Garber has allowed his tongue to run away with things. His consistently fulsome, often

### THE GROWTH OF MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER SINCE ITS INCEPTION



fawning, praise for Beckham surely overstates the facts. While Beckham brought attention to the league, it did not always result in admiration. His own attitude to MLS – with his frequent absence attending to other business – did not help cement an image of the league as one to be taken seriously.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter is one who has not been taken in by the Beckham factor. His January criticism of MLS as a league that, despite its 18 years of existence, "is still struggling" to make an impact on the American sports scene should serve as a reality check for Garber. Blatter was wrong in several of his criticisms – in particular he does not understand the weather problems that more or less force MLS to play in the summer – but his overall attitude is a useful corrective to the "Beckham glow" in which Garber likes to dress his league.

Blatter deplored that the USA seemed not to have developed a ladder of professional leagues, wrongly stating "they have just MLS". There are minor leagues in the USA, but there could ideally be a wider and stronger set-up.

> "We've been working hard to establish a solid foundation for the professional game. We've done it in a very patient and strategic way...we feel pretty good about where we are today"
>
> MLS commissioner Don Garber

And something certainly needs to be done to minimise the negative role that college soccer continues to play in the country's youth development plans.

**Going nowhere**

Determined action in those areas would surely strengthen the position of MLS more than any amount of glamorous activity from Beckham will have done. MLS continues to hold its annual SuperDraft, in which young players – the vast majority coming from the colleges – are assigned to MLS teams. Most of those players are going nowhere because their college training ill suits them for the professional game. But what happens to the youngsters who are outstanding?

Young American players are now on the world map as potential recruits. They are likely to be lured away by European clubs – or may even move overseas without ever playing in MLS at all.

This year saw the departure of Brek Shea to Stoke City and Andy Najar to Anderlecht. The numbers remain small for the moment, but they represent the cream of the American crop. The remarkable volume of player movement within MLS is largely due to the number of college players who are signed but who get released rather quickly.

All in all, 2013 looms as something of a problem season for MLS because it has nothing new to offer and may well remain static or even slide back in terms of attendance and TV ratings – which already lag way behind other American pro sports. But MLS – whatever Blatter may think – has come a very long way in a very short time. Now would be a good time for it to pay more attention to on-field matters, to see what needs doing to upgrade the quality of play. WS

• *MLS preview, page 94*

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# Licensed to scam

Victim...Guyana international Mills (centre) lost a lot of money – and his dream of a move to England – as the result of a scam by a would-be agent

# Criminal gangs are targeting players by posing as FIFA-licensed agents. Steve Menary reports on football's latest confidence trick

When Guyana international Vurlon Mills was contacted on Facebook by a Spanish agent offering the prospect of a trial in the UK, he felt both joy and caution.

A 22-year-old striker, Mills is ambitious yet careful, but when he saw the agent, Navarro Aparicio Jose, was listed on FIFA's online registry of licensed players' representatives his enthusiasm rose.

In his Facebook message, Navarro claimed to work for a UK agency called Cadmens (IFA) Ltd and subsequently asked Mills for £500 to cover medical insurance. Very few Guyanese players have agents and Mills was suspicious. He didn't have the money either – until his uncle offered to help out.

"I took a while to send the money because I was still in doubt," says Mills. "Navarro would contact me every day to find out if I had sent the money. I kept putting it off.

"I was leaving to go to World Cup qualifiers with Guyana in Texas and he wanted me to make the payment before I left. My uncle told me to make the payment because opportunities like this didn't come often. So I did."

Mills subsequently received a letter confirming a trial with Bristol City, signed by their then-manager Derek McInnes. Then Navarro asked Mills for another £1,200 as Cadmens and the English Championship side needed money "to get all the documents ready".

Mills changed his mind. "I told [Navarro] I no longer wanted to come on trial and to please send back my money," he explains. "He still tried to convince me, saying he had already paid a part of it and could I pay the rest. Eventually he stopped contacting me when he realised I was serious."

Mills spoke to Faizal Khan, a UK-based licensed agent of Guyanese extraction, who told him that UK clubs have insurance to cover trialists. When Bristol City admitted that they knew nothing about a trial, Mills realised he had been conned.

What he did not realise was that the "agent" who had approached him through Facebook called himself Navarro Aparicio Jose. According to FIFA.com, the agent licensed by the Spanish Football Association is Jose Navarro Aparicio.

Only a tiny detail, but not one noticed as Mills and his uncle parted with the equivalent of three months wages in Guyana. Even the contact on the Cadmens website is a name that, if reversed, is recognisable to many football fans: Regis Cyrille.

Had Mills checked further on Facebook, he would have found three other people identified as Navarro Aparicio Jose, all claiming to be football agents and living as far apart as Reading in England and Queensland in Australia.

Agents themselves have also been caught out. Matt Alexander, a UK-based agent who has suffered from scammers claiming to be a licensed agent called Alexander Matt, reveals: "I had a young player from Switzerland whose dad rang me as they had been scammed. I've spoken to the FA about it in the past. The only response I got was they are 'aware of the problem'."

These web-based scams are also aimed at managers. Stephen Constantine has coached in Nepal, India, Malawi, Sudan and is now in Cyprus with club side Ethnikos Achna.

"There are loads of scams like it," admits Constantine. "I had one from Bahrain where they were offering me a deal but I had to pay €500 for them to vet me."

Stewart Hall, another coach with wide-ranging international experience from India to St Vincent & the Grenadines and Tanzania, agreed that these scams are rife.

"The favourite for coaches is to be offered a job at a legitimate club and then be asked for a cash advance for a work permit which these people promise will be repaid," said Hall, who is now in charge of Tanzanian club Azam. "There is a new scam from China offering a fantastic contract, then asking for money to join the China Coaches Association, which they say foreign coaches must do. It's always small amounts, never more than US$500; it's how they catch you."

Ballooning use of social media from Facebook to sites such as networking website LinkedIn appears to make this sort of scamming easier.

The English FA has licensed an agent called Digby Reed, but another "agent" who claims to work for the phantom agency Cadmens calls himself Reed Digby. On LinkedIn, there are 10 profiles for Reed Digby – based in Austria, London, Glasgow or Nigeria. On many of these profiles, the person identifies himself as either a FIFA agent or sports professional, often connected to Cadmens.

When *World Soccer* contacted a Reed Digby claiming to be involved with Cadmens, he responded: "I am Reed Digby, a licensed FIFA agent from England. Currently our agency is recruiting young talented players from all parts of the world to our upcoming football trial in England. If interested kindly get back to me with your email

Bristol City FC
Ashton Gate Stadium Bristol, BS3 2EJ
The Football League Limited, FL Interactive

INVITATION LETTER

This is to inform you that the player with the Name and Passport Number:

NAME: MILLS VURLON ROBERT
PASSPORT NUMBER: [illegible]

Has been invited for a football trial in Bristol City FC, in ASHTON GATE on the 27/10/2012, during his stay here in England

We will take care of his accommodation, feeding and medical care throughout his trial period.

This letter is valid only on requested player who will be joining Bristol City Fc here in England for the upcoming football trial.

We hope to get a positive responds.

For any information regarding this trial contact:

Mr. Navarro Aparicio Jose
Tel: +447045751421

Yours Sincerely,

Derek McInnes

**Taken in...Mills' offer of a trial, purporting to come from Bristol City**

> "Primarily, it is the associations' responsibility to ensure that the prerequisites for obtaining and keeping a licence are fulfilled"
> FIFA statement on licensed agents

address for more details." If this is the Digby Reed licensed by the FA, would he really get his own name mixed up?

A check on Facebook reveals nearly 30 people called Reed Digby, all who claim to be football agents. One has more than 400 "friends", many of whom appear to be aspiring footballers from Third World or developing countries. Some of these Reed Digbys give the same address as the Digby Reed listed on FIFA.com. Some profiles even use the same photo as other Digby Reeds. As for Cadmens (IFA), there is no such company registered at Companies House.

**Real people**

Typically, these scammers get credibility on Facebook or LinkedIn by connecting with real people in football, many of whom do not always think twice about accepting a social media invitation to connect. Former Philippines coach Simon McMenemy, now in charge at Indonesian Premier League side Pelita Bandung Raya, connected via LinkedIn with the same Reed Digby that connected with *World Soccer*.

"He has contacted me a number of times trying to see if I know any players that would like a trial in the UK," says McMenemy. "I have reported him to UEFA and FIFA as he is posing as an official agent yet is not registered. They told me they were looking into it."

Most scammers perpetrating the sort of fraud that sucked in Mills are, according to UK police, Lithuanian, Nigerian or Romanian. Unless the victim is from the UK, British police can do nothing – although this may change in the future. With the money wired via Western Union, there is no recourse for the Mills family. Their money is gone.

Alexander and McMenemy reported their involvement, while Bristol City also informed the FA and Football League, but for some in football who are unwittingly involved in these scams, ignoring the issue is the easiest option.

Navarro claimed that representatives from English clubs – including Oldham Athletic, Southampton, Leeds United, Stoke City and Fulham – would be at the Cadmens' trial Mills was invited to attend. *World Soccer* asked all five clubs if they had any involvement with Navarro, Reed Digby or Cadmens, but only Fulham replied, saying: "We are neither aware of the company nor representatives."

The UK-based Association of Football Agents did not respond either, while the European Association of Football Agents claims to be unaware of any such scams. That is strange given evidence elsewhere suggests the problem is rife.

A Bristol City spokesman confirmed Mills was certainly not the first player to be taken in, claiming: "Unfortunately we are regularly contacted by players and agents who appear to have been sent scam invitations to attend trials. If we ever believe a false letter or representation has been made, pretending to be from Bristol City, we pass the details on to the Football Association and suggest the player or agent contacts their local police if they believe a crime has been committed."

**Beware...the website of Cadmens (IFA) Ltd**

**Misrepresented... Jose Navarro Aparicio**

FIFA may list licensed agents on its website, but since 2001 agents have been licensed by the association from where they operate. FIFA says: "The lists of agents on FIFA.com contain the official information provided to FIFA by each national association regarding the agents who have a license issued by each association."

What this information lacks in some cases is email or telephone contact details. This absence has seemingly enabled scammers to misrepresent Digby Reed and Jose Navarro Aparicio. The Spanish Federation did not reply to a request to confirm whether any of the three Jose Navarro Aparicios on Facebook is the real one.

> "I have reported him to UEFA and FIFA as he is posing as an official agent"
> Simon McMenemy on being contacted by the mysterious Reed Digby

When *World Soccer* visited the address in Somerset given on FIFA.com for Digby Reed, no one was home. However, neighbours said someone of that name does live there. A note was left asking Mr Reed to confirm he was not involved with the Cadmens scam. A subsequent letter was sent to Mr Digby at the same address and also to the address given on FIFA.com for Jose Navarro Aparicio in Madrid. So far, there has been no reply.

FIFA'S online agents' directory shows 150 of its 209 member associations have licensed agents to operate. But 42 of these associations have not provided a telephone number or an email to FIFA for one or more of the agents they have licensed.

A total of 179 agents on FIFA.com are only contactable by postal address. Even that basic detail is lacking for one of the only two licensed agents in Honduras, while there is not a single phone number or email address for those in Gabon. Navarro is the only one of 559 licensed Spanish agents uncontactable by phone or email, but 32 of 269 licensed French agents lack these details on FIFA.com. In Italy, the number is 55, while in Russia more than a quarter would prove hard to locate using FIFA's directory.

**Larger agencies**

Some representatives work for larger agencies whose details can be found elsewhere. Others do not. These agents may be perfectly legitimate – but, given the difficulties ascertaining who is the real Jose Navarro Aparicio and Digby Reed, unless FIFA makes these details available how can players approached by a foreign agent verify their identity?

As Mills' experience shows, social media can easily be used to create false identities. Travelling from Guyana to Spain to knock on a door is hardly an option, either.

According to Matt Alexander, the agents' information on FIFA.com is not updated regularly enough. He joined Notts County in September 2011 and under FA rules cannot continue acting as an agent. His licence was put on hold, but Alexander claims his details were only recently taken down from FIFA.com.

Asked about these scams, FIFA adds: "Indications about possible and alleged non-compliance with the regulations should be referred to the member association concerned."

With Mills taken in by the offer of a trial by an English club through an apparently English "agency", that surely leaves this particular problem at the door of the Football Association.

The FA routinely warns UK players about fraudulent agents and says the Cadmens' website is obviously a scam. Not obvious, perhaps, to overseas-based players without an agent, or whose first language is not English.

Vurlon Mills still spots the person calling himself Navarro Aparicio Jose on Facebook. He messages demanding his £500 back, but the scammer immediately goes off line, biding his time, waiting for the next victim. WS

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# PLAYER Biography

# Edinson Cavani

Napoli's Uruguayan forward is a deeply religious man, but his faith may not keep him in Naples for much longer. By Paddy Agnew

"Cavani is someone who lives out his faith in a profound way. He is a believer and he is coherent with his belief. And that is why he is never afraid to make the sign of the cross, to pray, even to raise his eyes to heaven after scoring a goal. Certainly the Good Lord helped him when he scored three goals against Juventus the other night. Let's hope he scores another hat-trick in his next game for Napoli. Man can do nothing without God, and God needs man to score goals for him."

You might say Edinson Cavani has friends in high places. Those are the words of the Archbishop of Naples, Crescenzio Sepe, and he made his comments just after Napoli's emphatic 3-0 win over Juventus in January 2011.

Whether with or without divine intervention, that hat-trick against eternal northern rivals Juve in his first season with Napoli signalled a special moment for Cavani. If any Napoli fan had doubts about the former Palermo striker, they were dispelled that night in one of the high points of a season in which the side finished third in Serie A and qualified for the Champions League. Cavani was second in the league scorers' chart with 26 goals – two behind Antonio Di Natale of Udinese.

The issue of divine intervention, however, is not irrelevant. As Cardinal Sepe indicated, Cavani is a convinced believer, a member of the Brazilian-based Athletes For Christ movement, along with Kaka and Hernanes. The Cardinal has it right when he says Cavani stops to thank God after he has scored a goal, in the process often lifting up his jersey to show a T-shirt that reads "Jesus Loves Me".

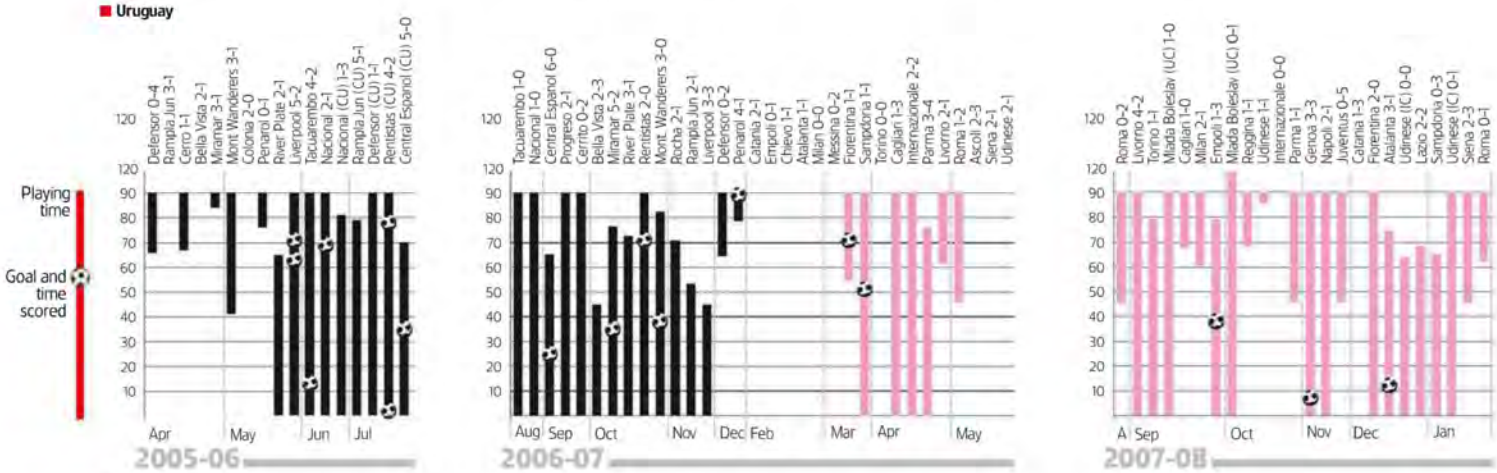
Cavani's faith has been with him since the start of his days with Montevideo side Danubio, but he admits that it has got stronger in his five years in Italy, having first arrived to play for Palermo in January 2007. His faith, too, was strengthened by his friendship at Palermo with team-mate, ▸

## TIMELINE: EVERY MATCH, EVERY MINUTE, EVERY GOAL

**KEY**

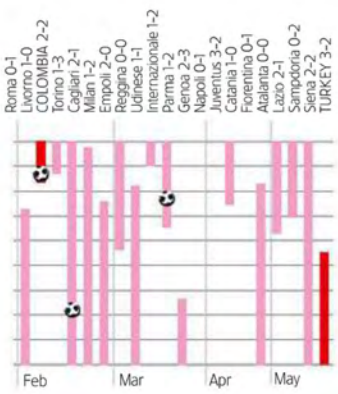
- Danubio
- Palermo
- Napoli
- Uruguay

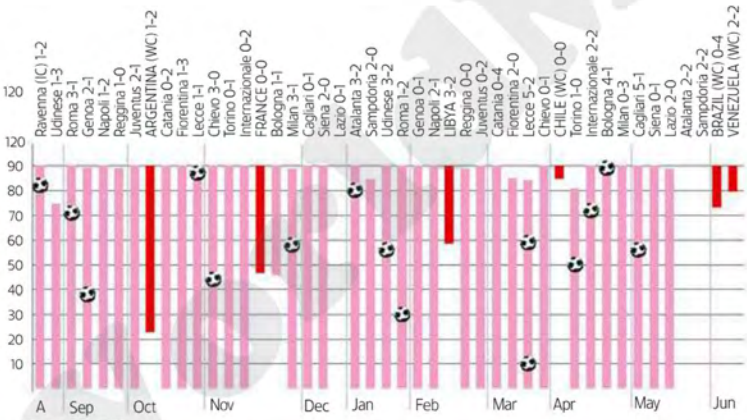
**WC** World Cup qualifier
**WCF** World Cup finals
**CA** Copa America
**CL** UEFA Champions League
**UC** UEFA Cup/Europa League
**CU** Uruguayan Cup
**IC** Italian Cup
**ISC** Italian Super Cup



Heaven sent...Cavani celebrates doing what he does best

Feb 6, 2008 – scores four minutes after coming on as a sub for his international debut, in a friendly at home to Colombia



## FACT FILE

**Edinson Roberto Cavani Gomez**

**Nationality**
Uruguayan

**Age**
26 (14.02.87)

**Place of birth**
Salto, Uruguay

**Height**
6ft 2in (1.88m)

**Position**
Forward

**Teams**
**Danubio**
(2006-07)
29 games/12 goals

**Palermo**
(2007-10)
117 games/37 goals

**Napoli**
(2010-present)
128 games/93 goals*

**Argentina**
(2008-present)
46 games/13 goals*

**Honours**
**Danubio**
Uruguayan apertura 2006-07

**Napoli**
Italian Cup 20112

**Uruguay**
Copa America 2011

*(* up to and including 08.03.13)*

**Promise...making his mark as a young goalscorer with Danubio in Uruguay**

and Brazilian goalkeeper, Rubhino, of whom Cavani says: "With 'Ruben', we had an immediate intuitive understanding, we understood one another and we read the bible together."

Cavani, known to friends as "Edy", is not embarrassed to explain the faith which underpins his entire value system, admitting last year: "I've always felt that first and foremost you have got to be a true person and only after that a great footballer. If I did not have my faith and did not have values to both respect and pass on to others, then I would never have become a top level footballer."

### Valentine's Day

Born on Valentine's Day, Cavani spent his early years in Salto, Uruguay's third-biggest city, before moving to Montevideo at the age of 12 when he was scouted by Danubio. His mother, Berta Gomez, had separated from his father, Luis Alberto, but the family followed him to the capital, where half-brother Walter Guglielmone, who is eight years older than Cavani, was already established as a professional footballer and alerted Danubio's to his younger sibling's potential.

Guglielmone, who has since led a peripatetic career, playing in Azerbaijan, Mexico, Paraguay, Brazil and currently for Beijing Technology in China, became something of a father figure for the teenager. "I always tried to give some advice and help," says Guglielmone. "And that motivated him. I always knew he would make it. When you see a child who sleeps with the ball, it's because he loves football. He was born to play football."

Middle brother Cristian is two years older and also had a trial with Danubio, but he was not as successful and has since returned to play for home-town club Salto in Uruguay's second division.

Edinson made steady progress through the ranks at Danubio, making his debut at 17, and scored nine goals in his first senior season as Danubio claimed the apertura title in 2006.

A call-up to the national under-20 side followed, where he starred alongside Luis Suarez at the South American Under-20 Championship, in Paraguay in January 2007. Cavani finished as top scorer with seven goals in nine games and went on to play at the Under-20 World Cup in Canada that summer.

By now he was on the radar of leading European sides, but Italian clubs – who had watched him at the Viareggio youth tournament a year earlier – were already in poll position to sign him.

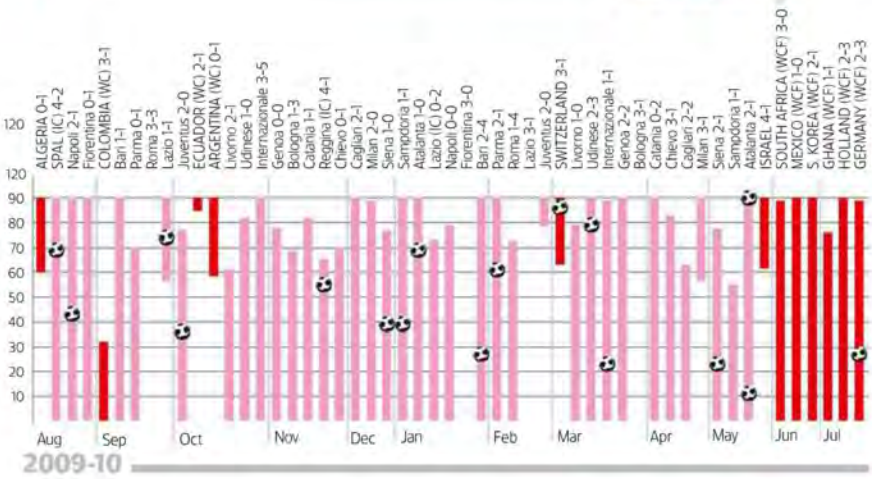
Palermo saw off competition from Fiorentina to sign Cavani in the summer of 2007, although he has since admitted that anxieties over crime in Sicily almost deterred him from the move. However, he has a strong connection with the island, with his grandfather having emigrated from Sicily to Uruguay in search of a

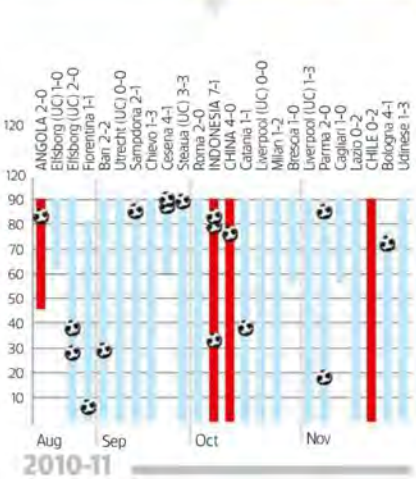
**Semi-final...against Holland in the 2010 World Cup**

**KEY**
- Danubio
- Palermo
- Napoli
- Uruguay

Jun 16, 2010 – makes his World Cup finals debut, against the host nation, South Africa, in Pretoria

Oct 8, 2010 – scores his first professional hat-trick as Uruguay thrash Indonesia 7-1 away in a friendly



URUGUAY

## Edinson CAVANI

### Uruguayan starlet on song for Palermo

URUGUAY QUALIFIED for the World Youth Cup in Canada by finishing third in the South American Under-20 Championship, and their star performer and captain was Edinson Cavani.

Known as *El Matador*, he finished top scorer with seven goals, but he showed his game is not solely about finishing. "It's not only the danger he represents in the box, his flair for scoring, that marks him out," says Uruguay Under-20 coach Gustavo Ferrin. "He also has a huge appetite for work and doesn't put himself above the team. I ve no regrets about giving him the armband."

At club level, Cavani's dozen goals helped Danubio pip favourites Peñarol to the 2006 opening championship. Comparisons were made with Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and Real Madrid, Juventus, Milan, PSV Eindhoven and Kyiv Dynamo were linked with him. However, it was Palermo who were quickest to the table, paying Danubio €3.4million in January.

Cavani made an immediate impact in Italy, scoring with a brilliant volley on his debut against Fiorentina.

FACT FILE

**Talent spotter... profiled by *World Soccer* in July 2007**

better life in the Americas.

Early appearances were limited at Palermo, but opportunities increased with the departure of Amauri to Juventus in the summer of 2008. Cavani linked well with Fabrizio Miccoli in a partnership that was to prove profitable in more ways than one, and in April 2010, as Palermo chased a Champions League place, he agreed a lucrative new contract.

### Surprising move

It was something of a surprise when Napoli signed him in 2010, given that he was brought to replace Juventus-bound Fabio Quagliarella, who had been the club's record signing following a €18million move from Udinese the previous year. But Cavani has thrived under coach Walter Mazzarri in Naples and graduated to the international stage with aplomb. He was one of the stars of Uruguay's run to the 2010 World Cup semi-finals and their victory at the Copa America 12 months later.

Away from football, Cavani is married to Maria Soledad, who he met when they were children in Salto. Recently he posted ultrasound photos of their unborn child on Twitter. The baby, who was due in March and will be named Lucus, is a brother for two-year-old Bautista. It was a surprisingly public act for a man who likes to keep his private life under wraps.

The point about Cavani, of course, is that he is very publicly a great footballer. It says much about his importance to Napoli that his seven-match, 590-minute goal drought earlier this year coincided with a disappointing period for Napoli when they not only crashed out of the Europa League but also squandered a number of chances to reduce the gap on Serie A leaders Juventus.

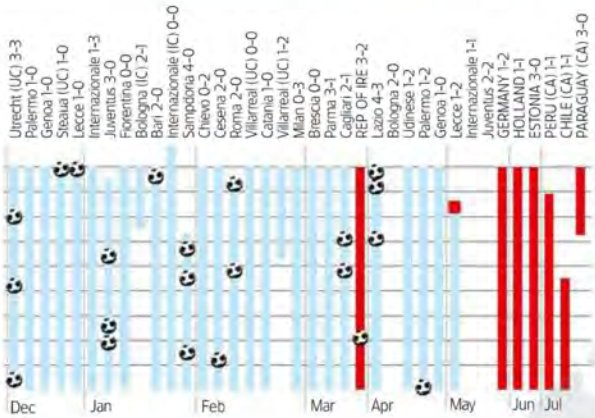
For weeks, media commentators speculated long and hard about the reasons for Cavani's "crisis". In the process they curiously managed to forget that he was the leading goalscorer in Serie A; goal drought or no goal drought. Napoli's difficulties in their head-to-head tussle with Juventus may, however, impact on Cavani's future. There are those who argue that unless Napoli win the title this season, the Uruguayan will be on his way. Napoli's owner, film tycoon Aurelio De Laurentiis, fuelled that speculation when he said in February: "Cavani and I have a great relationship, but if he were to come to me and say that he felt his time at Napoli was up, then we would talk about that. Otherwise, he has a five-year contract and he will be staying."

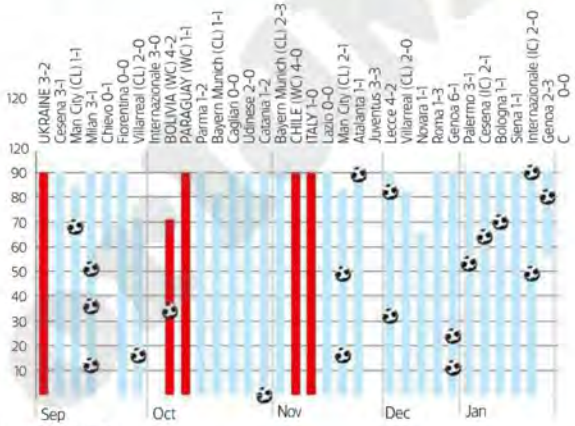
Even though Cavani signed a new contract with Napoli that takes him through to 2017, there has been a

**Giving thanks...praying with a member of Uruguay's coaching staff following the 2011 Copa America Final**

Jul 24, 2011 – celebrating with Uruguay team-mates after their Copa America victory against Paraguay in the Final in Argentina

Nov 22, 2011 – scores both goals in Napoli's 2-1 Champions League win at home to Manchester City




2011-12

**Tough... battling with Juventus defender Chiellini**

constant stream of transfer speculation which would see him move to sides such as Manchester City or Real Madrid next season. Agent Mino Raiola – who handles big names like Sweden's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Mario Balotelli, but not Cavani – only added to the transfer gossip when he told the Neapolitan daily *Il Mattino* in February that he expected Cavani to move this summer.

### Buy-out clause

Even though that new Cavani contract contains a €63m buy-out clause, Raiola argues that clubs such as Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain would not be deterred. And he may have a point. Cavani has just about everything to appeal. At 26 years of age he is at the height of his athletic powers and he is the quintessential modern striker in that his brilliance up front does not stop him dropping back to help out in defence.

Indeed, during his recent period of "indifferent" form, his best contributions to Napoli's game were in his defensive duties, which saw him covering back or helping out for corners.

Russia coach Fabio Capello says: "Last season, I was in the stands for the Champions League ties between Napoli and Manchester City, and you could see that Cavani is on another level. He runs, he battles, he scores goals both on the counter and in the box, sometimes with four or five defenders around him."

As for his future, Cavani has thus far played down all the talk of end-of-season moves, telling reporters: "Look, right now I'm thinking only of Napoli. I'm focused on giving 100 per cent for Napoli and I'm not thinking about all the rest."

During Napoli's 1-1 draw with the league leaders Juventus in March, Cavani fought a rough, tough battle with experienced defender Giorgio Chiellini. When the Juve man tugged hard on the Uruguayan striker's flowing mane, Cavani retaliated with an elbow in Chiellini's face. It was an act that should have earned him a red card. The incident, however, seemed to escape the attention of referee Daniele Orsato.

Divine intervention? For an athlete of Christ it may well have been... WS

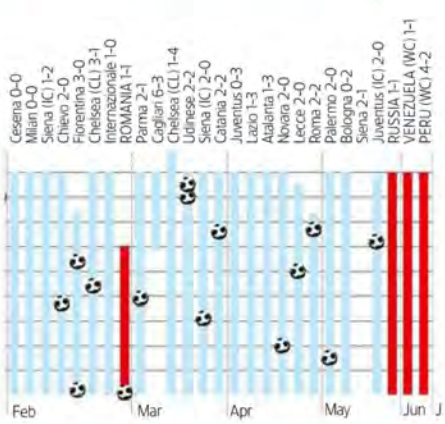
> "I promise you, I am giving my all in training and I'm always striving to be on top of my game"
>
> Cavani's only thoughts at present are for Napoli

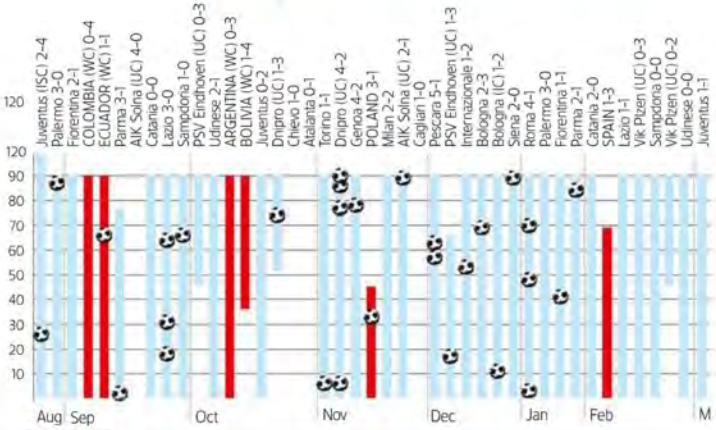
**Staying – for now...with Napoli owner De Laurentiis after signing a new five-year contract with the club in August 2012**

**KEY**
- Danubio
- Palermo
- Napoli
- Uruguay

May 20, 2012 – scores in Napoli's 2-0 win against Juventus to win the Italian Cup

Nov 8, 2012 – scores four goals in a game for the first time as Napoli beat Dnipro 4-2 at home in the Europa League



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# The new wide boys

With west African football crying out for creative players, Jonathan Wilson says that Nigeria have finally shown how to win with wingers

**Pace and power...Nigeria winger Moses (right) evades a challenge from Mohamed Koffi of Burkina Faso during the Final of the African Nations Cup in Johannesburg**

Nigeria's victory in this year's African Nations Cup was based on three things. Firstly, and perhaps most important of all, they played without the sense of entitlement that has so often dogged their teams in the past. There was none of the surliness or grumpiness that comes with failing to dominate when you are expected to do so easily. Instead, they were hard working, humble and played to a clear tactical system.

Then there was the form of John Obi Mikel. At previous tournaments he has sulked his way around, looking as if he would far rather be back being underappreciated at Chelsea. But Stephen Keshi's decision to drop him last year for a supposed lack of commitment to the cause clearly stung and he was superb this time around, calmly and efficiently dominating from the back of midfield. It may seem implausible given their respective reputations in the Premier League, but Mikel utterly overwhelmed Yaya Toure in the quarter-final victory over Ivory Coast.

> "He is an old-fashioned type of winger. He brings real penetration to the wide positions. Teams are so well set up tactically these days you need players who can bring something different. Victor is that type"
>
> Roberto Martinez, Victor Moses' manager at Wigan Athletic

And then there was width. For years, west African football has been blighted by a lack of creativity. As football evolved to squeeze the classic playmaker, no new figures came through to replace the likes of Theophile Abega, Jay-Jay Okocha and Abedi Pele. Occasionally a talented second striker would emerge to evoke a few old memories, but there were certainly no wingers.

That was particularly obvious at the 2008 African Nations Cup in Ghana. Aside from Egypt – and, at times, Cameroon – only Guinea and Morocco did not play 4-4-2. The majority of the

Menace...Burkina Faso's Pitroipa (right) was named player of this year's CAF tournament

genuine contenders had strong spines but deficiencies out wide, and even in a tournament that brought hatfuls of goals, the standard of crossing was consistently poor.

It is hard to be sure exactly why, but there is no great tradition of wing play in west Africa. Given the influence of British football – which revered wingers for far too long – it is slightly baffling, but perhaps has something to do with the environment in which young players learn the game.

"Look at how kids play," says Tom Vernon, who runs an academy in the hills above Accra in Ghana. "They have a pitch maybe 20 or 30 yards long and set up two stones a couple of feet apart at either end, often with gutters or ditches marking the boundaries at the sides. It's a tiny area and the game becomes all about receiving the ball, turning and driving through the middle."

More recently there is the issue of what Vernon calls "the Papa Bouba Diop template". The African players who have succeeded in Europe in the past have usually been big and robust, and so clubs look only for something similar. Players called up by European clubs at a young age develop faster and have a higher profile, and so it is they who make it into the national team.

### The last five years

Over the past five years there has been a change, with the flowering of wide men in west Africa. Ivory Coast have Gervinho, who, for all his fragile confidence and poor decision making, has been effective for his country. He scored an excellent winner against Togo in this year's African Nations Cup and was superb against Tunisia before fading, as he often does, when the heat was on.

Ghana have Andre Ayew – or at least they did until his recent retirement from international football after falling out with coach James Kwesi Appiah. His performance in the quarter-final last year was outstanding as he dominated from wide, his pace and purpose sending ripples of panic through Tunisia.

And although he played as a centre-forward in South Africa at times, Burkina Faso's Jonathan Pitroipa, who was named player of the 2013 tournament, showed the phenomenon is not limited to the region's grandees.

And Nigeria, of course, have Victor Moses, playing with pace and power on either flank. Injury kept him out of the first game, a draw with Burkina Faso, which was Nigeria's poorest display. He then won two penalties and converted both as things became edgy in the final group game against Ethiopia, but it was in the knockout stage that he really came into his own. His drives down the left negated Emmanuel Eboue as an attacking threat in the quarter-final and it was his cross that brought Elderson Echiejile's opener in the semi-final. In the Final he was a persistent menace.

On the other flank was Emmanuel Emenike, a centre-forward playing wide who showed a creator's awareness in laying on the second goal in the semi-final for Brown Ideye. The combination worked a treat: Emenike could cut inside to link up with Ideye, with Moses's natural inclination to stay wide meaning Nigeria could always spread the play.

Ahmed Musa, so impressive in the Under-20 World Cup in 2011, is another product of the boom in west African wide men, although he is one of that very modern category of player: the wide centre-forward, constantly looking to cut infield and exploit the space available on the diagonal inside the full-back.

However, when Musa played with Emenike it was clear that, with both going inside, Nigeria became too narrow. Moses' natural width averted that. Even better, with Emenike buzzing in from the right, space was opened for Efe Ambrose to get forward from full-back, offering width and varying the depth of attack.

There wasn't just discipline to this Nigeria but also balance. Keshi deserves the credit for managing the egos and politics of Nigerian football, but the way his side evolved over the tournament, becoming more fluent, revealed also an astute tactical mind. WS

Options...Emenike liked to cut in from the right to link up with Ideye

# ClubFocus

## ANZHI MAKHACHKALA

# Living the dream

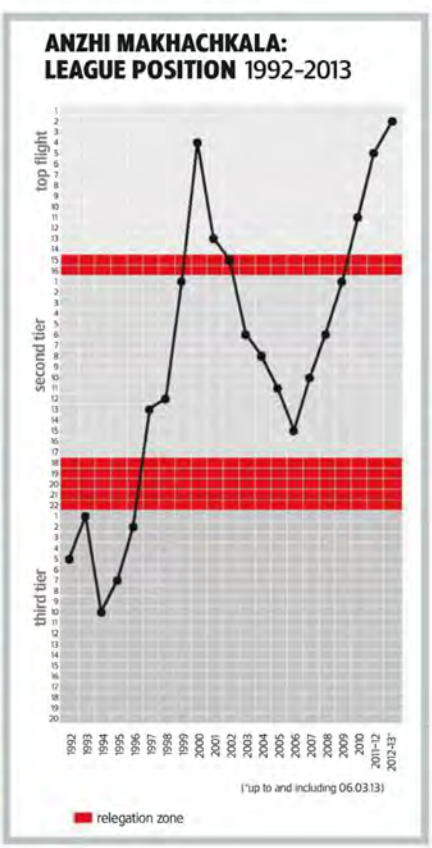
Victor Gusev profiles the Russian club being funded by a local billionaire and with designs on becoming a European superpower

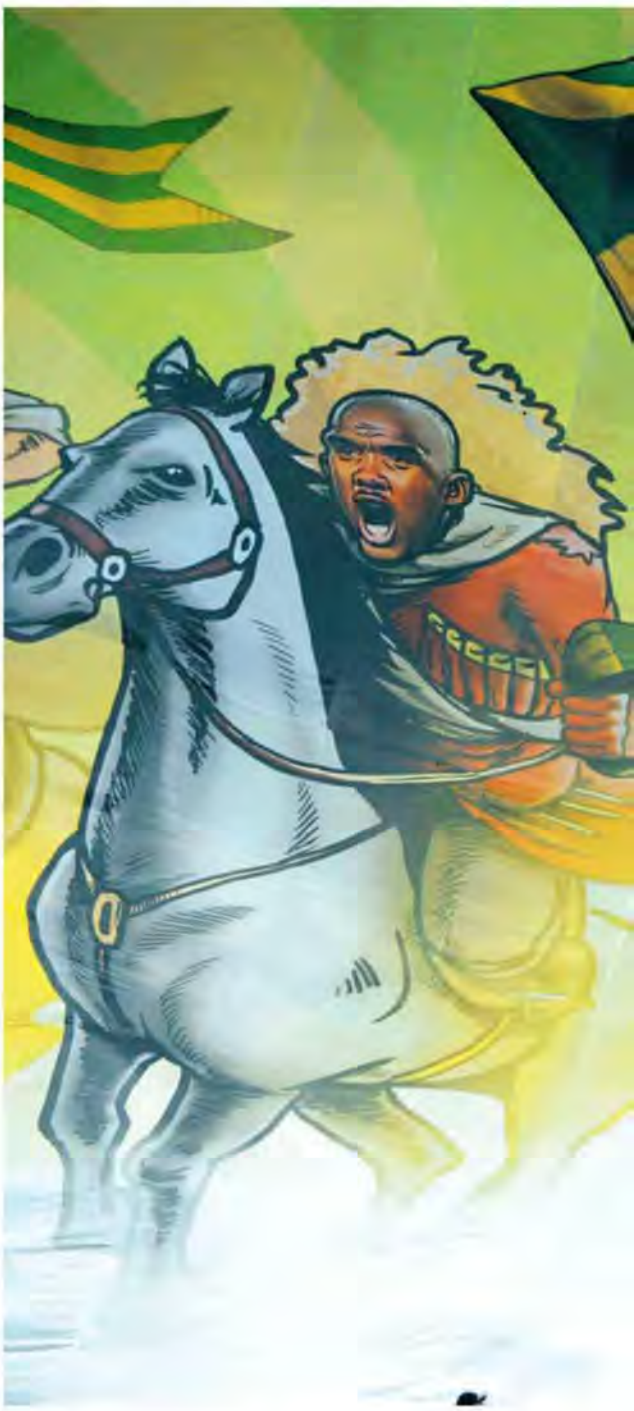
It's a dream that would have been dismissed as fantasy just a few years ago, but these days Anzhi Makhachkala fans are entitled to dream. With less than a third of the Russian season remaining, the club is ahead of established powers such as Zenit and Spartak Moscow. A Champions League berth is a realistic ambition and even talk of winning a first-ever national title is not being dismissed.

Founded in 1991, decades after many of Russia's leading clubs had already made their mark, Anzhi's only major achievements to date came during the team's first two seasons in the Russian top flight. Nine years after their formation the team finished fourth in the national championship; then, in 2001, they reached the Russian Cup Final, which they lost on penalties to Lokomotiv Moscow.

Meaning "pearl" in Russian, Anzhi suffered relegation to the second tier in 2002 and only managed to claw their way back to the Premier League as recently as 2009. And it was their struggle to establish themselves back in the top flight that prompted Magomedsalam Magomedov – who is the president of the Dagestan region in which the city of Makhachkala is the capital – to approach locally born billionaire Suleyman Kerimov with an offer to take over the club.

**Winner...Anzhi celebrate against Liverpool**



**Heroes...a giant fans' banner depicting (left to right) Eto'o, Hiddink and Roberto Carlos**

A mountainous republic in the south of Russia that borders Chechnya, Georgia and Azerbaijan, Dagestan occupies a strategic position by the Caspian Sea and its proximity to Chechnya has meant that conflicts have regularly spilt over into the region.

Last year the murder of a prominent local Muslim leader, Said Afandi Al Chirkawi, was condemned as the latest threat to stability in the region, with Hugh Williamson of Human Rights Watch commenting: "The federal and

local authorities should do everything in their power to prevent a situation arising in which further human rights violations engulf the republic."

**Pumping in money**

Kerimov, who made his fortune turning around distressed companies, formally took charge in Anzhi in January 2011 with the understanding that he would pump money into Anzhi in an attempt to boost the club's fortunes and improve the image of the Dagestan region.

The attractions to Kerimov of such an approach were obvious. For a self-made oligarch who was born and educated in Makhachkala, his challenge was to help a non-Moscow club enjoy success against the big teams from the capital. Another motivation, according to Kerimov himself, was to give the three million Dagestanians something they could be proud of. In a region troubled by war and political instability, it was hoped that Anzhi would become a beacon of hope.

Kerimov proceeded to spend heavily in his bid to attract talent to the club. Veteran Brazil star Roberto Carlos was the first major signing, arriving as a free agent from Corinthians for a reported annual salary of €7million. However, it was the purchase of Samuel Eto'o from Internazionale that gave a real sign of

**Mastermind...Hiddink during the Europa League victory over Hanover**

European debut...Sergey Yaskovich tries to stop Rangers' Ronald De Boer in their UEFA Cup clash in September 2001

Choices...Khazar (top) and Lokomotiv stadiums

the new owner's intentions and the subsequent hiring of Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, in February 2012, was confirmation that Kerimov meant business. Hiddink, Russia's former national boss, replaced Yuri Krasnozhan who had only been in charge for two months and left without overseeing a single competitive game.

The investment is paying off. Second only to CSKA Moscow before the restart of the league campaign in March, Hiddink's side have also been making waves in European competition this term. Winning all six of their qualifying games in the Europa League without conceding a goal, Anzhi then finished second to Liverpool in the group stage, ahead of Young Boys and Udinese, before seeing off German side Hanover 4-2 on aggregate to reach the last 16.

### Security issues

This season is not, however, Anzhi's first adventure into Europe. Their continental debut took place in 2001 when, as Russian Cup runners-up they competed in the UEFA Cup. Their opponents, Rangers, refused to play in Makhachkala for security reasons and the two-leg tie was switched to a single game, which was played in Warsaw, where the Scottish side won 1-0.

Security issues are still very much on

## THE POWER CURVE

The key figures at Anzhi

**SULEYMAN KERIMOV**

Anzhi's owner is the eighth richest person in Russia (according to *Forbes* in 2012). A Russian MP, he made his fortune as an investor/speculator – mostly in oil, gas and property – and has an estimated fortune of US$6.5billion. Now 46, he survived a car crash in 2006 in which he suffered serious burns.

**MAGOMEDSALAM MAGOMEDOV**

He was president of Dagestan, from February 2010 to January 2013, before Russian president Vladimir Putin appointed him deputy head of his administration. Responsible for talking Kerimov into taking charge of Anzhi, he is a former vice-president of the club.

**KONSTANTIN REMCHUKOV**

A journalist, politician and businessman who became chairman of Anzhi's board at the invitation of Kerimov. Owner and editor-in-chief of the popular daily paper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, he used to accompany Kerimov to watch Chelsea games in London.

**GERMAN TKACHENKO**

Russia's top football agent is Anzhi's general counsellor. Masterminded contracts with Roberto Carlos, Guus Hiddink, Samuel Eto'o and Yuri Zhirkov. A former sports manager and politician, he was also president of Kryliya Sovetov Samara.

**ROBERTO CARLOS**

World Cup winner with Brazil who was the fans' favourite before Eto'o joined. Switched from playing to coaching and then to team director. Praised in Russia for his conduct on and off the pitch. Has a say in Hiddink's planning and team selection.

the agenda due to recurrent episodes of violence in Russia's most multinational republic, with more than 30 ethnic groups living in Dagestan.

Anzhi supporters, whose main fan group is nicknamed "the Wild Division" after a World War One military unit from the Caucasus, continue to be denied the chance to watch their team play in Europe at their home ground.

UEFA has banned all matches from being staged in Makhachkala, although club captain Eto'o has tried to lobby the European game's president, Michel Platini, in a bid to persuade the governing body to change its mind.

In the meantime, home legs in the Europa League this season have been played in Moscow at the 30,000-seat Lokomotiv Stadium and the 78,000-capacity Luzhniki, which is due to host the 2018 World Cup Final.

It is also significant that the team itself is not based in Makhachkala. The squad stays at a training base in Kratov, outside Moscow, which was previously owned by the local club Saturn, who

Talks...Eto'o has lobbied UEFA on Anzhi's behalf

collapsed with debts in 2011. The players have apartments in the capital and only make the 1,000-plus mile journey to Makhachkala for home games in the Russian Premier League.

This, however, may all change when proper training facilities and the new 50,000-seat Anzhi Arena are built in Makhachkala. But for now, league games are being played at the Dynamo Stadium, while the old Khazar stadium in Kaspiysk, which is situated 10km from Makhachkala, is being rebuilt to house a temporary 27,000-seat arena for the club.

At grass-roots level, the first-ever

Major shock...Anzhi signed Willian from Shakhtar Donetsk despite competition from several big English clubs for the Brazilian

> "I'm glad it's going well. Russian football is growing"
>
> Anzhi coach Guus Hiddink

football academy in Dagestan was opened in 2012 to discover and develop young talent for the club.

### Local hero

Eto'o has quickly won over those fans who feared he had moved to Anzhi just for the money. The Cameroon striker ensured his place in supporters' hearts when he grabbed a megaphone from a steward behind the goal and shouted "Go Anzhi" to a delighted crowd. The image of Eto'o as a local hero was not even shattered by a French television interview in which he admitted that the club pays €80,000 a month for his four-storey Moscow penthouse but complained about the size of his TV set.

An annual after-tax salary of €20m makes Eto'o the world's highest-paid player, but he has been at pains to stress his support for club owner Kerimov in his humanitarian aspirations and, in particular, the idea of making football a tool for goodwill in a troubled region.

Rumours at the start of this year that Anzhi would be signing Kaka and David Beckham proved to be just that, and Argentinian midfield talent Ricardo Centurion's €7.5m move from Racing was postponed in February following doubts over whether he would recover from an ankle injury in time to play a role in the league campaign.

Centurion could still make the move this summer. In the meantime, a major surprise was sprung with the signing of Shakhtar Donetsk's Brazilian star Willian, who had been so impressive in the Ukrainian club's Champions League

## FINANCIAL MYSTERY

### ANZHI COULD FACE UEFA BAN

How Anzhi will comply with UEFA's Financial Fairplay (FFP) regulations is a mystery. The club has been Russia's biggest spender in the transfer market over the past two years and their planned budget for 2102 was €140million. Some €42m has been recovered by player sales, but with TV rights, sponsorship and gate money providing only a small proportion of total revenue, owner Suleyman Kerimov has funded the shortfall from his own pocket. FFP allows overspending of €45m over three seasons and clubs who do not meet the regulations face a ban from Europe. One way around this could be for Kerimov to fund a sponsorship deal, but that would lead to accusations of "financial doping".

Deep pockets...Kerimov must meet FFP rules

campaign last autumn. Wanted by English sides Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur, the 24-year-old was snapped up by Anzhi for €35m after, according to the player, neither Premier League club was prepared to meet Shakhtar's asking price.

Anzhi also brought in international defender Andrey Yeshenko from Lokomotiv Moscow. He has been viewed as a good purchase but not a replacement for Christopher Samba, the first player to be signed by Hiddink. The powerful centre-back followed his family in their wish to live back in England and he joined Queens Park Rangers for €15m (see *Face To Face*, page 72). The departure of Samba, dubbed "the silent giant" for his unemotional behaviour on the pitch, created an unexpected hole in Anzhi's defence, which the club filled by signing Bosnia-Herzegovina skipper Emir Spahic on loan from Sevilla.

Yeshenko taking the left-back position will allow Yuri Zhirkov – one of the most creative attacking midfielders in the country – to push further forward, while easing the club's reliance on foreigners in a league that insists teams must field a minimum of four Russians on the pitch at any time.

### The future

As for the future, Hiddink has said that he plans to retire from coaching when his current contract with Anzhi expires this summer, although some believe he may yet change his mind. If he does go, whoever steps in to replace the Dutchman will have plenty to work with as Kerimov is reportedly planning to spend around €300m just on transfers by the end of next season.

While Kerimov's plans for Anzhi may yet be scuppered by UEFA's Financial Fairplay regulations, at least his wealth has let the club and its followers dare to dream for now. WS

**Optimistic...Anzhi fans see a happy future ahead**

## THE SQUAD

### GOALKEEPERS

**Azamat DZHIOEV**

**Age 22 (06.01.91)**
Spent three seasons with Spartak Moscow before joining Anzhi in 2011.

**Vladimir GABULOV**

**Age 29 (19.10.83)**
Previously with CSKA Moscow and Dynamo Moscow, he joined Anzhi in 2011. His younger brother, Georgi Gabulov, left Anzhi for Alania Vladikavkaz earlier this year.

**Evgeni POMAZAN**

**Age 24 (31.01.89)**
Born in Uzbekistan, he was a European Under-17 champion with Russia in 2006. CSKA Moscow's reserve keeper from 2007 to 2011, he was loaned to a couple of lower-division sides before he signed for Anzhi in 2011.

### DEFENDERS

**Kamil AGALAROV**

**Age 24 (11.06.88)**
Born in Makhachkala, he is the younger brother of former Anzhi captain Ruslan Agalarov. An unyielding character, he shows good pace as a right-back.

**Joao CARLOS (Bra)**

**Age 30 (01.01.82)**
A centre-back who often advances into the opposing penalty area, he joined Anzhi from Belgian side Genk in January 2011, having previously played for Vasco da Gama in his homeland, CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria and Lokeren in Belgium.

**EWERTON (Bra)**

**Age 23 (23.03.89)**
Ewerton Jose Almeida Santos played in Portugal, on loan to Braga from Corinthians, before joining Anzhi last year for €5.4million. Has yet to win a regular starting place due to injuries.

### MIDFIELDERS

**Odil AHMEDOV (Uzb)**

**Age 25 (25.11.87)**
Uzbekistan international since 2007, he joined Anzhi from Pakhtakor Tashkent in 2011. A defensive midfielder, he was voted the club's best player in 2011.

**Mbark BOUSSOUFA (Mor)**

**Age 28 (15.08.84)**
Born in Amsterdam in a family of Moroccan immigrants, he graduated from the Ajax academy to Chelsea's youth team. Won two Belgian titles with Anderlecht before moving to Anzhi in March 2011. Made his international debut for Morocco in May 2006.

**Mehdi CARCELA-GONZALEZ (Mor)**

**Age 23 (01.07.89)**
Born in Belgium, he played two friendlies at senior level before switching his international allegiance to Morocco, where his mother is from. Joined Anzhi from Standard Liege in August 2011.

### FORWARDS

**Samuel ETO'O (Cam)**

**Age 32 (10.03.81)**
Signed from Internazionale for €21million in August 2011 and is the world's highest-paid player with a salary, after tax, of €20m a season. Has also played for Real Madrid and Barcelona, and is the club captain.

**Serder SERDEROV**

**Age 19 (10.03.94)**
A regular in Russia's Under-19 side, he returned to Anzhi and signed a four-year deal last July after a spell with CSKA Moscow.

**FEDOR SMOLOV**

**Age 23 (09.02.90)**
International who is on loan for the season from Dynamo Moscow. Anzhi are reported to be ready to invest €6.5million to secure a permanent deal.

## THE STADIUM

### DYNAMO STADIUM

**(capacity 15,200)**

Anzhi train in a village near Moscow during the week and only visit the city of Makhachkala on match days. Built in 1927, their current home ground is banned by UEFA from hosting European matches due to the armed conflict in Dagestan, so the club have been forced to stage their home games in this season's Europa League in Moscow, either at the Lokomotiv Stadium or the Luzhniki Stadium. Club owner Suleyman Kerimov plans to build a new 50,000-seat stadium.

## THE KIT

Home Away

3

**Ali GADZHIBEKOV**

**Age 23 (06.08.89)**
Locally born attacking centre-back or wing-back who has sometimes been used as a striker. Was a freestyle wrestler and kick-boxer in his youth.

15

**Arseni LOGASHOV**

**Age 21 (20.08.91)**
Made an unexpected international debut in August 2012, in a friendly against Ivory Coast. Signed a five-year contract with Anzhi in 2011 but is not a guaranteed starter. Nicknamed "Octopus" for his unyielding style.

33

**Emir SPAHIC (Bos)**

**Age 32 (18.08.90)**
Centre-back and captain of his national side, he was signed in February on loan from Sevilla until the end of the season, with an option to buy. Previously with Montpellier and Russian sides Shinnik Yaroslavl, Lokomotiv Moscow and Torpedo Moscow.

13

**Rasim TAGIRBEKOV**

**Age 28 (04.05.84)**
Has spent his whole career with Anzhi and was the first player to make 100 appearances for the club. Former captain, he was voted the Russian league's best defender in 2009. A left-footed centre-back, he packs a powerful shot and can also play on the left wing.

2

**Andrei YESHENKO**

**Age 29 (09.02.84)**
Brought up in an orphanage from the age of nine after his parents died in a car crash. Happy on either flank as a full-back, he joined Anzhi from Lokomotiv Moscow in January 2012. Made his international debut in September last year, in a World Cup qualifier against Israel.

85

**Lassana DIARRA (Fra)**

**Age 28 (10.03.85)**
Joined Chelsea from Le Havre for £1million as a teenager and played for Arsenal and Portsmouth before moving to Real Madrid for £20m. Made over 100 appearances in Spain before signing for Anzhi in September 2012 for €5.3m.

8

**JUCILEI (Bra)**

**Age 24 (06.04.88)**
Jucilei Da Silva is a defensive midfielder who was signed from Corinthians for €10million in February 2011. A Brazil international since 2010.

17

**Sharif MUHAMMAD**

**Age 22 (21.03.90)**
Born in Makhachkala to an Afghan father, he joined Anzhi's youth team in 2010 and made his first-team debut the same year.

14

**Oleg SHATOV**

**Age 22 (29.07.90)**
Attacking midfielder who signed a four-year contract with Anzhi in 2012. Formerly a futsal player, he scored on his international debut, against Iceland in February.

18

**Yuri ZHIRKOV**

**Age 29 (20.08.83)**
Won bronze at Euro 2008 with Russia when Guus Hiddink was national coach. He won two titles and the 2005 UEFA Cup with CSKA Moscow before joining Chelsea in 2009 and winning the Premier League. Signed by Anzhi the following year.

19

**Lacina TRAORE (IvC)**

**Age 22 (20.05.90)**
Impressed in the Champions League with Romanian side CFR Cluj in 2011 and earned himself a move to Kuban Krasnodar. Joined Anzhi for €18million in the summer of 2012. Has fine dribbling skills and good pace despite being 6ft 8in.

10

**WILLIAN (Bra)**

**Age 24 (09.08.88)**
Willian Borges da Silva joined from Shakhtar Donetsk for €35m in February 2013. Scored twice in Shakhtar's 3-2 loss to Chelsea in this season's Champions League. Great ball control and passing skill; a Brazil international since 2011.

## THE COACH

### Guus HIDDINK (Hol)

**Age 66 (08.11.46)**
Became a hero in Russia when he took the national team to the semi-finals of Euro 2008. "No Guus, No Glory" and "In Guus We Trust" became popular slogans and the Dutchman even had fans naming their children after him. Returned in February last year after a brief spell in Turkey to take over at Anzhi on an 18-month contract with €8.3million a year. Considered one of the world's top coaches, he has been in charge of Holland, South Korea and Australia at World Cup finals, and looked after Real Madrid and Chelsea at club level. He says he plans to retire at the end of this season.

# Facetoface

## CHRISTOPHER SAMBA

# "I came back to England for personal reasons... all the money in the world cannot make you the happiest man"

The towering Congo defender has swapped Champions League-chasing Anzhi for a relegation battle with Queens Park Rangers

**It was a big surprise to many people when you joined Anzhi from Blackburn Rovers in February last year. Some talked about the money, but you've said it was because Blackburn made false promises and Russia was a fresh challenge...**
When I was at Blackburn I was told they were going to rebuild the team, and when they didn't I felt my time was up. I needed a new challenge. I'd gone to Anzhi, I'd gone to a fantastic club and I've really no regrets about that. I came back to England for personal reasons. I still think Anzhi can be one of the biggest clubs in the world and I'm sure they will be with an owner who is investing so much in the team. They have just signed Willian, so you know you have to be crazy to leave a team like this. But with me it was just a question of wanting to be back with my boys. I have two youngsters and I want to have a great life with them. So that's why I decided to come back to Europe. All the money in the world cannot make you the happiest man. People who are born into money are often not happy in that life. If you can enjoy your football and have your loved ones close that's all you want. For me, family is the most important thing. When I was at Blackburn I took a whole box for them and there could be anything up to 30 in there. That's who I am. That's how it should be.

**So, no regrets about choosing Anzhi?**
No, this club do everything to make life good. They really take care of you and you want for nothing. They are a fantastic club. It was just a case that I was alone all the time. It was hard. For a year you are alone at home, just watching TV or something. I didn't think that was the life for me.

**There were reports of racism in Russian football. You were targeted along with Roberto Carlos...**
With other clubs there was some trouble with racist chants, but it was never a problem with the Anzhi fans. I think they had one of the only stadiums that was always full. If I was to advise any other [black] player to go to a Russian club, I'd say you have to go to Anzhi.

**Is there much difference between the Russian Premier League and the English top flight?**
Oh yeah, it's a massive, massive change. The build-up is slower in Russia, while in England it's direct and about pace. It's really much more difficult for a defender in the English Premier League. It's a really aggressive tempo, that's why it's the hardest league in the world to play in.

**Were you surprised that QPR were willing to pay so much money to bring you back?**
Well, I don't know how you judge if it's too much money. Some people do, but I don't know who is worth what. Is £12million too much? I don't know. Or if it was another player would it be OK? Maybe someone else is worth more. Maybe some people believe that what I have done in football, my reputation, what I did at Blackburn, was enough to pay this. I'm not there to judge it, I didn't set the price. I've been bought for a reason because QPR believe I can make a difference. I certainly believed that I could lead the team. I don't know if it will be enough, but one thing is sure: I'm going to do my best to help them.

**Is there extra pressure with such a price tag?**
What can a player say about the price? What can Andy Carroll say? What can Torres say? What can Zidane say? No player can say about how much they've been bought for. That's the way it is. That's football. I'm just here to play. People can talk about these things, but they don't really know me. When I step onto the pitch I give everything. Sometimes everything can be fantastic, sometimes it can be not enough, but I never go on the pitch thinking I'll just go through the game. That's not me. You should try to do your best every game.

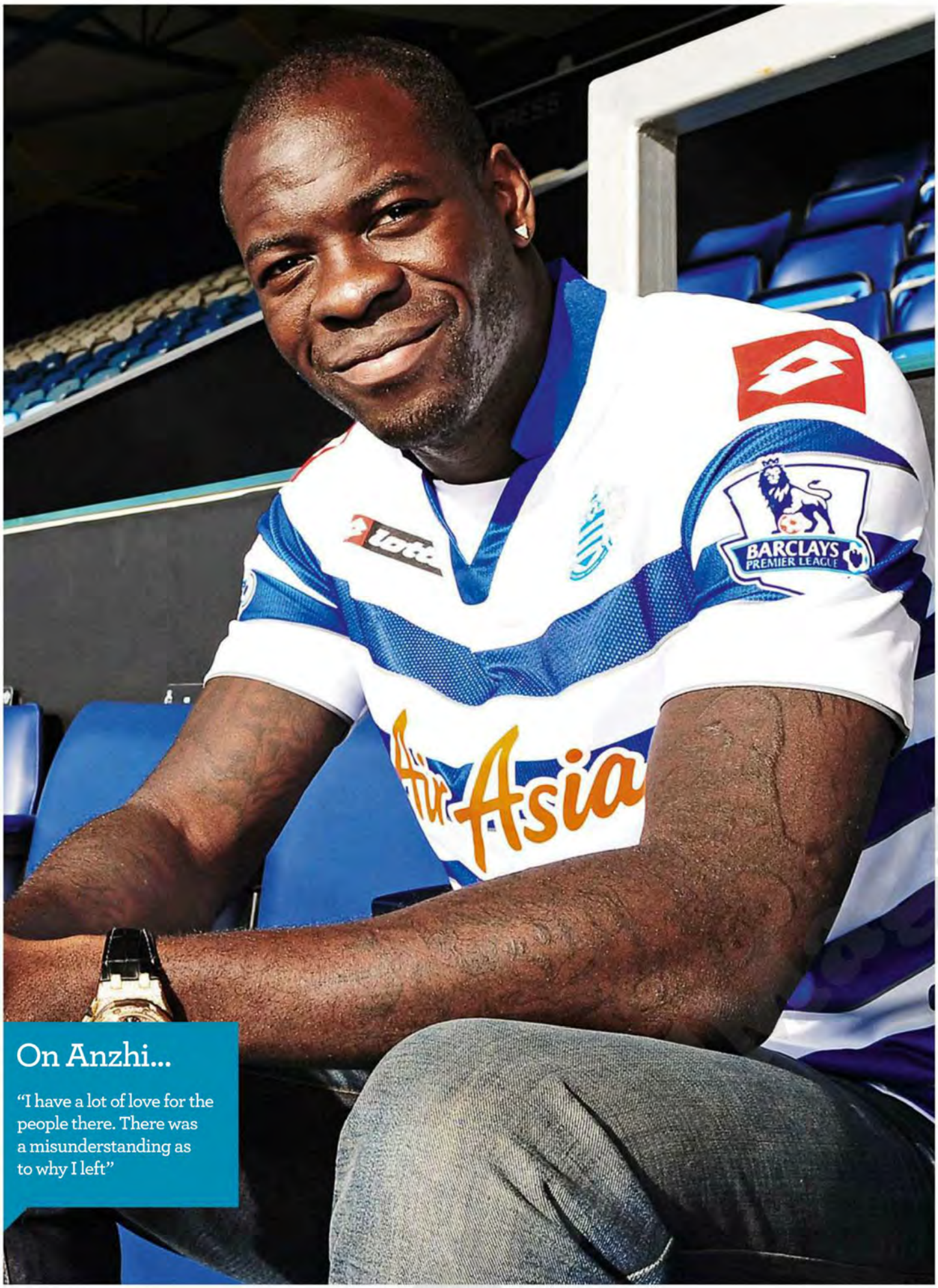
**Are there similarities between QPR and Blackburn's relegation troubles?**
Not really. It's different players with different points of view. Emotionally it's very different too, but of course when you get some experience you know better how to handle it and that's something I can help with. When you know what's going on, sometimes you see how a player reacts and you can say: "Guys just keep calm and let's talk about what's gone wrong."

**How did the QPR move come about?**
I spoke with Harry [Redknapp]. He had tried to sign me before. That didn't happen, but I know that he had wanted me to work with him for a long time. Obviously we're not in the best position [in the league]. We have had to rush things a bit in the way we work together. We didn't have much time but we have tried to be effective very quickly.

**QPR owner Tony Fernandes was instrumental in bringing you back...**
Yes, Tony showed great belief in me and I will try to pay him back. At Anzhi I had three years left there on a big salary. Obviously, if I come back to QPR it's not to make more money. Not at all. All the talk about money is just nonsense, really nonsense. What we are going to try to do is fight to the end. I'm sure now we've got a good bond and we are working hard to win our survival fight.

**Can you fix the problems at QPR?**
There's a lot to improve but we need to think more as a unit and have more understanding in defence. We had won something like twice in 25 games when I arrived – but it has to be all about winning now.

***Interview by David Fearnhead***




## On Anzhi...

"I have a lot of love for the people there. There was a misunderstanding as to why I left"

# Facetoface

## THEO BUCKER

# "Everything that we have achieved is viewed in a different light"

Lebanon's national coach is having to start all over again after 24 players were suspended for their involvement in a match-fixing scandal

**From reaching the final round of World Cup qualifying to being embroiled in a match-fixing scandal, football in Lebanon has experienced some dramatic highs and lows of late...**

This is what happened in brief. Over the period of the past 40 years Lebanon was in a dark tunnel. Nothing happened. Roughly two years ago I took over to do my friend, the general secretary of the federation, a favour. He asked me to help get Lebanon through qualification. We lost the first match 6-0, but this was normal for the Lebanon national team. Then we suddenly started producing astonishing performances and very good results. This was happening only because of me. The team and I worked closely together, everybody was listening to me. We all believed in each other and everything was fine. After these good results the board, the federation, everybody wanted to get the credit. And then we started to fight and the players stopped getting paid.

**Do you think players not getting paid is what led to match fixing?**

There was no other club, no other team, no other nation coming to our players and giving them money to lose. A couple of players were selling matches to a betting company. That's it. There has been an investigation and as a result the federation has suspended 24 players.

**One of the matches under suspicion is the World Cup qualifier against Qatar. How do you feel?**

I feel very, very bad. I feel very, very sad. There were players selling matches who I really trusted. I never expected them to do this. And now everything is broken. If the federation wants to continue, we have to start from the beginning again.

**There was no hint of any problems last year. What changed?**

The one possible change is that the young players had been doing this for a long time without us knowing. When our success came they wanted more money, expected more and found they could get more. So it was just greediness.

**When did you suspect that something was wrong?**

The first match against Qatar [last June] when our defender Ramez Dayoub was playing weird. I checked the match afterwards and three or four times he tried to play very stupid back passes in the direction of an opposition forward. Finally he was successful [Qatar scored and won 1-0]. Everybody was astonished. But no one could come close to the idea that he could do it on purpose. This was the first thing. Then we played the Arab Nations Cup in Jeddah, in July, and for a couple of matches we were clearly the better team. And then we lost [because of] very individual mistakes.

**What proof have you seen that players took money?**

The proof is that some of the players were living a life they could simply not afford on their normal salaries. If you are getting US$1,500 you are not able to buy a big BMW. You don't have two wives, five kids, two houses. They always had the best mobile phone and the best clothes. Since we know they didn't break into a bank, the money must have come from somewhere.

**You have said that your wife was the first person to notice something was wrong at the Qatar match?**

My wife was the first person to find out because she has a very sharp eye and she understands football. [Dayoub ] tried to do it several times and tried to play this pass. Then we checked the video.

**Maybe the federation should give your wife a job?**

[Laughs] It's enough that she is a kind of assistant to me!

**How does Lebanese football solve a problem like this?**

In this situation we can only do one thing. The federation must make a very clear statement saying that we know in the past that players have done things to affect results. They must say we support the coach, we put him in this position. Or I'll resign.

**The allegations are devastating when you consider how much faith the Lebanese people put in the team, putting aside political and religious differences...**

I'm still trying to find the right expression and the right words. I'm really speechless. They [the accused players] can deny it all they want, but other managers were listening in the dressing-room toilet before a match in Jeddah. Two of our players were talking to the goalkeeper because they wanted him to leave the match [get sent off].

**This has all happened ahead of the crucial World Cup qualifier against Uzbekistan too...**

On April 4 we have Thailand in the Asian cup [qualifiers] and then we have Uzbekistan. I have to choose a whole new team with new players.

**Do you feel that qualification for the World Cup finals is the only thing that could save Lebanese football?**

We should not look only for qualification. I started with the idea to bring the level of football up a little bit, to stabilise it. There is no point going up like a shot and then falling down again. We have to work together. I am the only professional in the country. They have to be convinced by what I am saying.

**Where do you think you will be in three months time?**

I really do not know. Maybe I'll be coach of the team, maybe I'll stay at home, maybe I'll coach another team. It depends on the federation.

*Interview by James Montague*

## On the effects of match fixing on the country...

"The biggest damage is that there are hundreds of thousands of innocent young players with hopes of becoming something. Here in Lebanon they have destroyed that belief. To steal the hope of a whole country? That is unbelievable"

# Talentscout

## Alen HALILOVIC

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Dinamo Zagreb |
| **COUNTRY** | Croatia |
| **POSITION** | Midfielder |
| **AGE** | 16 (18.06.96) |

The photographer who snapped Dinamo Zagreb's teenage midfield starlet shaking hands with Paris Saint-Germain superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic after a Champions League tie last autumn knows a good picture when they see one. Capturing the haughty indifference of the Swede and the wide-eyed admiration of the baby-faced Croat, the image encapsulates two poles of the career scale: the diva-like master juxtaposed with the adolescent apprentice.

In his first season as a full-timer, the youngster may look small and frail but appearances can be deceptive, and since making his first-team debut in September he has looked anything but out of his depth. Mature in attitude, his skill and poise have already drawn comparisons with outstanding Croatian creators of the past such as Robert Prosinecki, Zvonomir Boban and Luka Modric.

> "Real Madrid are very keen to bring him in on a long-term deal"
> Dinamo Zagreb vice-president Zdravko Mamic

"I watched both Halilovic and Modric growing up with us," says Dinamo academy chief Romeo Jozak. "And, if I had to make an assessment of their abilities, I'd say Alen has developed quicker, probably a step ahead or two of Luka at the same age."

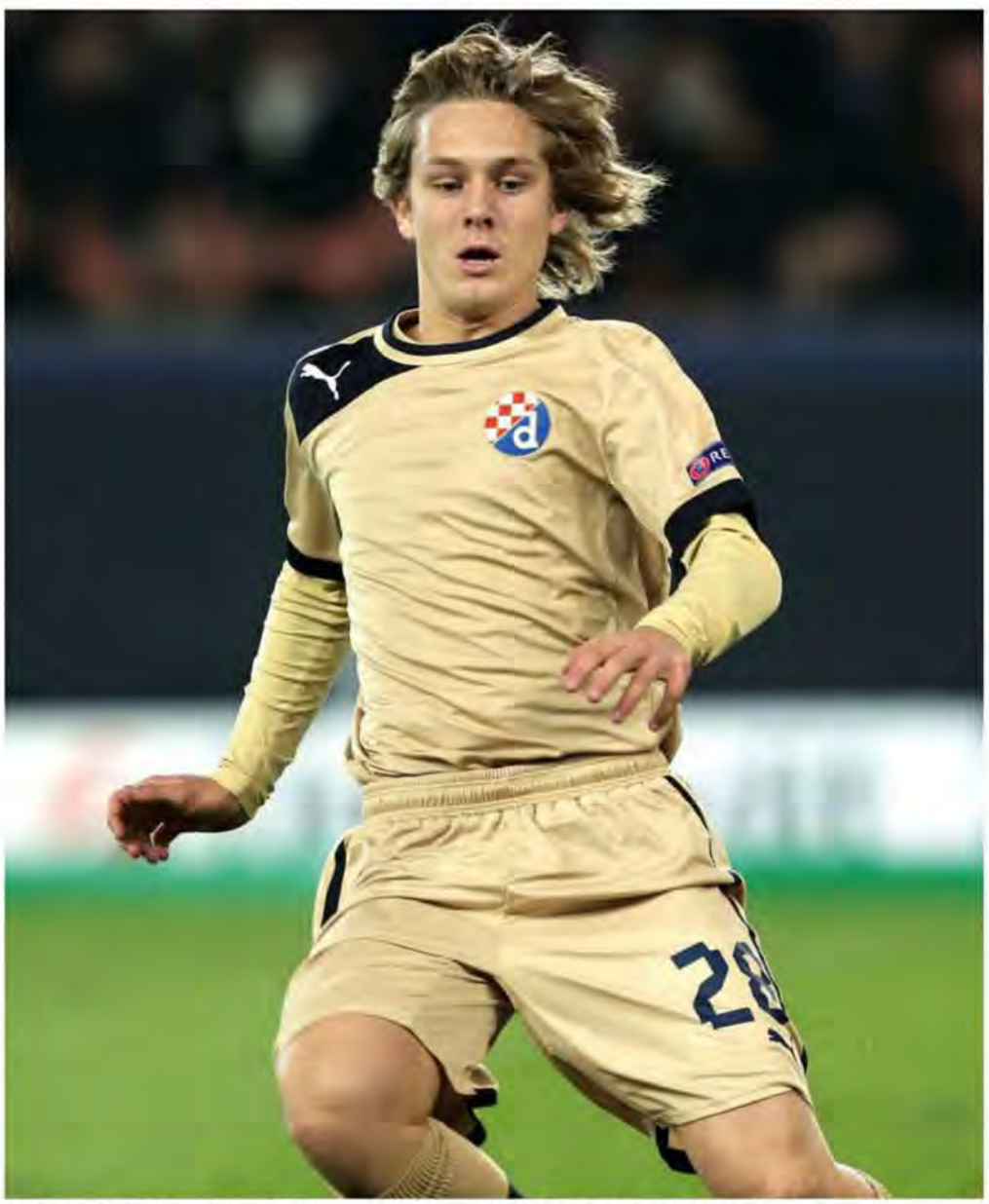
The youngest debutant in Dinamo's history as well as the club's tenderest goalscorer in a domestic league game – achieved in the 4-1 victory over Slaven Belupo in October – the Halilovic hype is impossible to avoid in the Balkans at the moment. Yet this is no PR and marketing campaign based on agent gossip and a suitably edited video show reel.

Born in Croatia of Bosnian descent – his father, Sejad, played international football for both nations – the young Halilovic has been turning on the style from his earliest days in the Dinamo youth ranks. His wonderful left foot, penetrating breaks from deep and powers of invention have left spectators and opponents alike opened-mouthed.

Contracted to Dinamo until 2014, the Croatia Under-17 international has the world at his nimble feet. And unlike his father – who, after playing in midfield for Dinamo Zagreb and Spanish side Valladolid, would later in his career only appear at smaller, intimate venues in the Israeli, Turkish and Slovenian leagues – Alen seems guaranteed to grace the game's biggest arenas.

And with all of Europe's top clubs looking to make their move for his services this summer, those who miss out need not necessarily look too far for an alternative. His 14-year-old brother, Dino, who is also a midfielder on Dinamo's books, is thought to be an even better prospect.

***Nick Bidwell***



**Great start...Halilovic is the youngest person ever to play for Dinamo Zagreb, while his father was capped by Croatia and Bosnia**

## Paulo DYBALA

Impressive...Dybala scored twice on his first start for Palermo, against Sampdoria

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Palermo (Ita) |
| **COUNTRY** | Argentina |
| **POSITION** | Forward |
| **AGE** | 19 (15.11.93) |
| **PREVIOUS CLUB** | Instituto |

Beaming from ear to ear, Palermo president Maurizio Zamparini was unable to hide his delight on announcing last spring that he had just completed a €12million deal with Argentinian club Instituto of Cordoba for the teenager dubbed "*La Joya*" (the jewel). "We fought off competition from Internazionale, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, you know," said Zamparini.

Anxious not to overburden the gifted Dybala in his first European tour of duty, Palermo wisely kept him on the bench for the early part of this season. However, in November they let him off the leash – and how he responded. Twice he intelligently found space in and around the box and pulled the left-footed trigger to deadly effect, scoring both goals in a 2-0 home victory over Sampdoria. He earned a rapturous reception from the Stadio Renzo Barbera crowd.

Palermo were completely justified in looking to ease him in gently as, before arriving in Sicily, he had clocked up only nine months of professional football in Argentina's second tier.

The defences he faced in the Primera B may not have been the strongest, but the majority of the 17 goals he scored last season took the breath away.

Aged just 17 years and nine months when notching his first goal for Instituto, he became the youngest scorer in the club's history, taking over the mantle of legendary Argentina front runner Mario Kempes. He also became the first Instituto player to hit two hat-tricks in a season and score in six straight league games.

> "We can now consider him ours. He's the next Sergio Aguero"
> Palermo president Maurizio Zamparini

Of Polish and Italian lineage, he is a natural in terms of sharpness in the box, movement off the ball, dribbling skills and the ability to link play. He also dedicates every goal to the memory of his father, who died four years ago.

***Nick Bidwell***

## Marco Van GINKEL

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Vitesse |
| **COUNTRY** | Holland |
| **POSITION** | Midfielder |
| **AGE** | 20 (01.12.92) |
| **CAPS** | 1 (0 goals) |
| **INTERNATIONAL DEBUT** | v Germany, November 2012 |

Along with Ivory Coast striker Wilfried Bony, midfield organiser Theo Janssen and goalkeeper Piet Velthuizen, attacking midfielder Van Ginkel is one of the reasons why Vitesse went into March just five points behind Eredivisie leaders PSV.

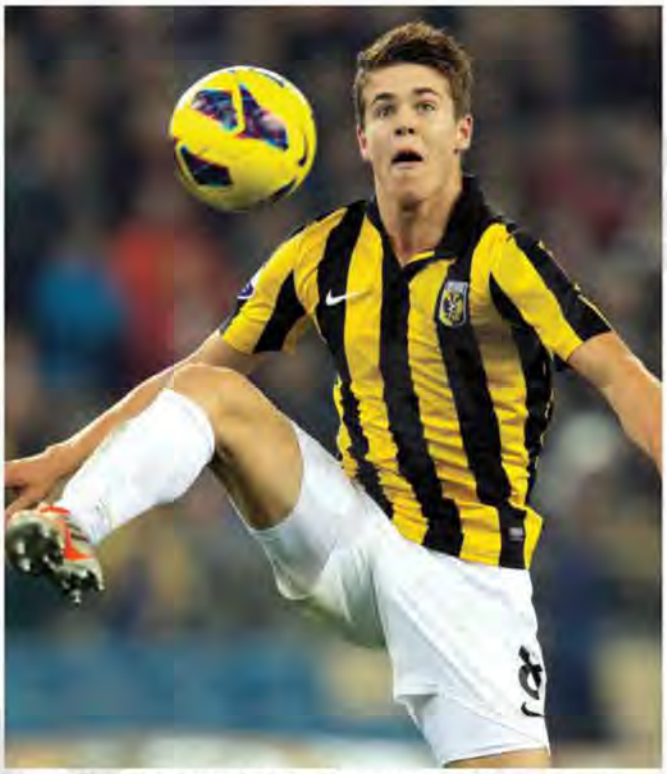
One striking aspect of the Arnhem-based club's approach this term has been the vibrancy, enthusiasm and intelligence with which they move forward. And no one in black-and-gold stripes better exemplifies this than Van Ginkel, a home-grown youngster whose father, Alex, was a forward in the Dutch top flight with Utrecht.

Neat, tidy and aware of movement around him, Van Ginkel junior offers Vitesse tempo and creativity with his accurate passing and late runs into the box.

> "Playing for the Netherlands was the personal highlight of my season so far, but I'll be working hard for other beautiful moments"
> Marco Van Ginkel

Now in his third full season in the Vitesse first team, his reward for a string of fine displays was a place in the senior Holland squad for the November friendly with Germany in Amsterdam, where he made his *Oranje* debut as a second-half substitute.

***Nick Bidwell***


Rewards...Van Ginkel's displays for Vitesse this term earned him an international call-up

**Name game...Ubilla leaves no one in any doubt as to who he is after scoring for Universidad de Chile against Deportivo Lara in his side's opening Libertadores game in February**

## Sebastian UBILLA

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Universidad de Chile |
| **COUNTRY** | Chile |
| **POSITION** | Forward |
| **AGE** | 22 (09.08.90) |
| **PREVIOUS CLUB** | Santiago Wanderers |
| **INTERNATIONAL DEBUT** | December 2011, v Paraguay |
| **CAPS** | 3 (0 goals) |

The opening night of action in this year's Libertadores Cup was crowned with a goal worthy of the Universidad de Chile striker's trademark celebration. Without taking his shirt off, Ubilla manages to turn it round, thus drawing attention to his name and number.

He was fully entitled to a moment of vanity after sealing his side's 2-0 win at home to Deportivo Lara of Venezuela. The visitors were pressing hard for an equaliser until a long pass down the right flank allowed him to take the ball past the onrushing goalkeeper, cut inside and then beat the defender on the line with a subtle little chip that dropped just under the bar.

It was an astonishing finish – all the more remarkable for coming off his weaker left foot – and it helped to explain why the slightly built figure has been making such an impression as a right-sided attacker. With his elusive movement, pace and a quick mind, Ubilla has the capacity to beat his marker on either side before shooting at goal. Perhaps more surprisingly, however, is that he is playing as a central striker in coach Dario Franco's side this season. Indeed, he had scored the opening goal against Lara with an illustration of his aptitude for the role, meeting a lob behind the defensive line with a fierce first-time volley, using timing and tight-space technique to compensate for his lack of physical presence.

Ubilla's selection at centre-forward might come as something of a shock to some of his early coaches. He came through the ranks with Santiago Wanderers – who, despite the name, are based in Valparaiso, the port an hour west of the Chilean capital.

A local lad, he joined the club at 13 and made his first-team debut five years later. His first few campaigns were spent in the second division, mostly as a wide midfielder. But, as he helped the team to win promotion and started to find the net on a regular basis, he was later pushed further forward on the wing.

His goal tally kept rising until the 2012 apertura in which, while playing for a mid-table team, he was the tournament's top scorer. The secret was now out and an article in the Italian press even compared Ubilla to Gianfranco Zola as speculation grew of a move abroad.

Instead, he went to Santiago to join *La U*. His capacity to attack from wide spaces made him an obvious attraction to coach Jorge Sampaoli and he was thrown into both legs of last year's Libertadores semi-final against Boca Juniors, coming off the substitutes' bench.

A back injury hampered his progress in the second half of the year as Sampaoli failed in his bid to lead the club to a fourth consecutive domestic title. But when Sampaoli then took charge of the national team and was replaced by Franco, Ubilla found himself with admirers picking the side for both club and country. After being given five minutes in a friendly at the end of 2011, he earned a place in Chile's starting line-up for Sampaoli's first two matches.

Yet to score for his country, it should only be a matter of time before Ubilla performs his goal-celebration trick by turning round the red of Chile – and maybe even in the colours of a top European club.

***Tim Vickery***

## Salim CISSE

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Academica (Por) |
| **COUNTRY** | Guinea |
| **POSITION** | Striker |
| **AGE** | 20 (24.10.92) |
| **PREVIOUS CLUB** | Arezzo (Ita) |
| **INTERNATIONAL DEBUT** | February 2013, v Senegal |
| **CAPS** | 1 (0 goals) |

Prompted by the civil unrest and economic hardship in his homeland, a teenage Salim Cisse jumped on board a boat for Italy and ended up in a centre for immigrants on the outskirts of Rome, where he would expeience a life-changing encounter.

With his temporary residence close to the ground of amateur side Borgo Massimina, Cisse often hung out at their training sessions. Intrigued by the sight of the youngster observing so intently, the club's coach thought it a good idea to invite him onto the pitch to see what he could do – and the youngster duly passed his trial with flying colours.

As luck would have it, Borgo Massimina director Francesco Anzalone was also on the board of Serie D side Arezzo and he made the necessary arrangements to sign Cisse for the Tuscan outfit, taking on the role of father-figure, bureaucratic minder and teacher of the Italian language.

Too strong, too quick and too determined, Cisse's 13 goals in 27 games for Arezzo saw him selected for the young Serie D representative side which competed in the 2012 edition of Italy's premier youth tournament at Viareggio. Sides such as Udinese, Siena and Sampdoria were rumoured to be watching him, but in the end it was Portuguese Cup holders Academica who stepped in and offered him a pro contract – to which he is said to have replied: "I do not want so much money. I only want a plane ticket so my mother can come to visit me here. I haven't hugged her for three years."

> "These days I'm going from one pleasant surprise to the next. I'm living the dream of the professional footballer"

At home...Cisse's power and pace have seen him make his mark in Portugal and Europe

Whether in Portugal or the Europa League – he scored a spectacular overhead kick against Hapoel Tel Aviv – Cisse's long-striding bursts of power and pace have made him look right at home.

***Nick Bidwell***

Front runner...Helenius has his sights set on taking Bendtner's place in the national team

## Nicklas HELENIUS

| | |
|---|---|
| **CLUB** | Aalborg BK |
| **COUNTRY** | Denmark |
| **POSITION** | Striker |
| **AGE** | 21 (08.05.91) |
| **INTERNATIONAL DEBUT** | August 2012, v Slovakia |
| **CAPS** | 2 (0 goals) |

The reputation of Denmark's 25-year-old first-choice striker Nicklas Bendtner has been undermined by personal problems and a relative lack of productivity at club level in recent years. He needs to keep a close eye on his rear-view mirror because a youngster of Finnish lineage is doing his utmost to supplant him in the national team's attack.

Second in the Superliga scoring charts behind Copenhagen's Dame N'Doye with 14 goals last term, Nicklas Helenius has been on target regularly again this season. But it is his multi-faceted game that above all enjoys the backing of coach Morten Olsen, who gave him his first full cap last year.

He is quick, with an excellent touch, and is especially dangerous when veering in from the left flank and shooting with either foot.

Now in his third campaign as a regular in AaB's senior side, bigger clubs are circling, with Premier League sides Fulham, West Bromwich Albion and Norwich City joining Fenerbahce of Turkey, a gaggle of Bundesliga outfits and Ajax in the chase.

> "The important thing for me at the moment is to concentrate on my football, on becoming even better"

"Of course, I'm pleased to be wanted by a few clubs in Europe," says Helenius. "This is what every player dreams of. If I had the choice I would prefer the German or Dutch league as their culture and mentality is closer to that in Denmark. I feel my playing style would fit in there."

***Nick Bidwell***

# 6 of the best

# La Masia graduates

Nick Bidwell profiles young players who came through Barcelona's youth academy but left to make their mark

## 1 Mauro ICARDI

**SAMPDORIA**

In blistering goalscoring form in Serie A this season – notably scoring twice in his side's thrilling 2-1 win at Juventus in January and hitting four in a 6-0 drubbing of Pescara later that month – the shoot-on-sight 20-year-old is now rated in the €15million bracket and is set to switch to Internazionale this summer.

Born in the same Argentinian city as Lionel Messi, Icardi left Rosario and moved to the Canary Islands with his family at the age of six. Barca had to see off the likes of Liverpool, Arsenal, Real Madrid, Valencia and Sevilla to recruit him at 15 from local side Vecindario, but their perseverance paid dividends and in his first two seasons in Catalonia he was regularly on target for Barca's junior sides.

However, below the surface, all was not well. Over time, the youngster had come to the conclusion that his abilities as a pure number nine were not suited to the freewheeling Barcelona template and in January 2011 his wish to leave was granted. He spent a successful six-month loan spell with the Sampdoria youth team prior to joining them permanently in a €400,000 deal that summer.

Proof of Samp's shrewd move came just 10 minutes into his professional debut when he came off the bench to score the winner in a 2-1 win away to Juve Stabia in May 2012.

## 2 Victor VAZQUEZ

**CLUB BRUGGE**

Arguably, Barcelona's best-ever crop of youngsters was their 1987 vintage, moulded around the talents of Lionel Messi, Cesc Fabregas, Gerard Pique and striker Vazquez. Good enough to have an agent at the age of just nine, the youthful Vazquez was considered by many Barca insiders to be even more talented than Messi, and thanks to his ultra-confident personality he was seen as the group's leader.

"I remember Messi and Victor were by far the best players in our team," says Fabregas. "Sometimes they would go in for head-to-head duels. If one scored four in one game, the other would hit five in the next."

With injuries a constant theme – notably a major knee problem in 2009 – Vazquez made only three first-team appearances for Barca and, after 14 years with his local team, he opted for a fresh start in Belgium with Club Brugge in the summer of 2011.

Now used mostly in a playmaking role, the 26-year-old remains a class act, but he is still just as injury-prone and broke his collarbone last year. Despite this, rumours abound that Malaga have designs on him.

## 3 Isaac CUENCA

**AJAX**

The skinny right-winger had the critics eating out of his hand after he broke into the Nou Camp first team at the start of last term. With his extraordinary dribbling ability, quick feet and composure on the ball, he looked a natural among Barca's *tiki-taka* masters.

But late in the campaign he suffered cartilage damage in his right-knee and the initial prognosis of 20 weeks on the sidelines ended up as eight months in absentia.

In the wake of such a long lay-off, and with the 2012-13 season already halfway through, it was decided that the best way to bring the 21-year-old back up to speed was with a move away on loan. In February he signed a six-month deal with Ajax – a team, of course, with much in common with Barca, employing a 4-3-3 system that is fluid, attacking and with the emphasis on home-grown players.

# 4 Marc VALIENTE

**VALLADOLID**

Another of the class of '87, there was a time when this resourceful centre-back could do no wrong at Barca. Sufficiently talented to be inducted into the La Masia academy at the age of 10, he was team captain in several of the club's age-category sides. Yet, apart from a run-out in a Spanish Cup tie against Badalona in November 2006, the Barcelona first team proved a bridge too far.

When Barca bought two additional central defenders – Gerard Pique from Manchester United and Uruguay's Martin Caceres from Villarreal – in the summer of 2008 he took the hint and left for Sevilla, where he turned out mainly for the reserves for the next two years. With his stock falling fast "*El Flaco*" (the thin one) desperately needed a change of surroundings to reboot his career, and on signing for second division Valladolid in 2010 he at last found an employer who believed in him.

Solid yet comfortable on the ball, the 25-year-old subsequently played a prominent role in Valladolid's renaissance. Promotion to the top flight last year has been followed by a respectable showing in La Liga this term – although he was recently on the receiving end of a flying elbow from Athletic Bilbao's Aritz Aduriz which broke his cheekbone.

# 5 Victor RODRIGUEZ

**REAL ZARAGOZA**

Cut from the "*blaugrana*" roster in 2005 along with full-back Jordi Alba on the grounds that they were too small, 23-year-old Rodriguez is currently doing his best to make Barca see the error of their ways on both counts.

While Spain international Alba spectacularly relaunched himself at Valencia before returning to Camp Nou last year, Rodriguez put his career back together with Badalona. After three years with the Catalan club, his versatility – he can play on the right wing, in a central attacking midfield slot or in the hole – earned him a move to Zaragoza, where he is joined by fellow Barcelona rejects Abraham Minero, Paco Montanes and Edu Oriol. But while all are able pros, none of that trio has come close to matching Rodriguez, who since arriving at the Romareda stadium last summer has morphed into one of La Liga's most astute providers of chances.

# 6 Oriol ROMEU

**CHELSEA**

With Barca since the age of 13, many felt he severed ties with the club too quickly when he left for the Premier League in a £4.35million transfer in August 2011. But the truth of the matter is that he simply did not feature in coach Pep Guardiola's plans and was, at best, fourth-choice behind Sergio Busquets, Javier Mascherano and Seydou Keita in the Barca engine room.

He has had a tough time since joining Chelsea, forced down the pecking order when Andre Villas-Boas, the coach who signed him, was sacked last season in favour of Roberto Di Matteo. And he was just beginning to regain lost ground under new interim boss Rafa Benitez late last year when he was ruled out for the rest of this season with damaged knee ligaments.

Having represented Spain at Under-21 and Olympic level, there is still time for the 21-year-old to realise his full potential. Among those monitoring developments are Valencia and PSV Eindhoven.

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# THE INSIDER

The expert view on events off the pitch

# Solving the Qatar problem

## Mayne-Nicholls believes he has the answers to the 2022 World Cup issues

**Playing it cool...Spain (in red) beat Uruguay 3-1 in a night-time friendly in the Qatari capital of Doha in February**

The man who first flagged up for FIFA the climatic complications of taking the World Cup finals to Qatar 2022 has also come up with answers to satisfy almost everyone from leagues and clubs to players and fans.

Harold Mayne-Nicholls led the technical study group which embarked on an assessment marathon ahead of the vote in December 2010 on all nine bids chasing the host rights for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

It proved a costly mission for Mayne-Nicholls, who was away from Chile for so long that opponents back home manoeuvred him out of the federation presidency. The loss was all football's as he is one of the most astute judges of the many and varied challenges facing the game.

He has just proved the point by coming up with the answers on Qatar 2022 as UEFA president Michel Platini continues to alarm Europe's "big five" leagues with his repeated demands to switch that tournament to the winter.

Indeed, Platini's one-man campaign has been so successful that it looks as if FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke has now offered his fellow Frenchman a glimpse of a strategy with which to achieve his calendar-disrupting aims.

> Platini launched his demand for a winter World Cup little more than a month after the decisive vote by FIFA's executive committee

Platini has made no secret of the fact that he voted for Qatar, insisting he planned to do so long before the then-French president Nicolas Sarkozy invited him to dinner and he found the Emir of Qatar was the other main guest.

The former captain and coach of France told both of his intention – but on condition the Gulf state spread matches around neighbouring states. This, though, was largely impossible given the cultural and societal differences between them all. For example, Qatar, reluctantly, is ready to countenance alcohol zones for fans but not all its neighbours would accept such a compromise.

Platini launched his demand for a winter World Cup, never mind the Qataris' air-cooling promises, little more than a month after the decisive vote by the FIFA executive committee.

Fed the question consistently by the media ever since, he has repeated his insistence and supported it with a pretence that western Europe's leagues would need to make only a few weeks adjustment. This ignores the difficulties over match schedules, sponsorships, domestic television contracts and an extended season's incursion into the time territory of other sports.

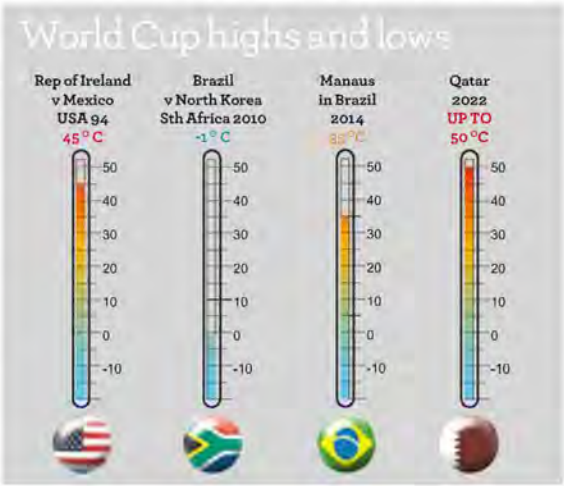
Hassan Al Thawadi, secretary-general of Qatar 2022, expects a decision by 2015, which is after the next FIFA presidential election for which Platini is current favourite to succeed Sepp Blatter – although Blatter appears to have other ideas.

### Risk to health

The issue was put to Valcke at the recent annual meeting of the International Board in Edinburgh. He said if the Qataris wanted a date change it was up to them to ask. But he then conceded FIFA could order a switch if confronted by medical evidence of a significant risk to players' health from even an air-cooled World Cup. Valcke's words appeared an indirect invitation for Platini to assemble a medical case – which would not please, at very least, the United States and the other three nations beaten by Qatar in the ballot.

In the original technical report presented to the FIFA ExCo before the vote, Mayne-Nicholls and his team had noted the risks of the climate as "a potential health risk for players, officials, the FIFA family and spectators".

To be fair, however, they had observations to make about weather



**Looking ahead...Mayne-Nicholls inspects a model of a proposed Qatar World Cup stadium**

conditions for all the candidates.

So what does Mayne-Nicholls think now? "In the report we raised the climate issue, not only in Qatar's bid, but in each of the nine," he says. "All the ExCo members knew about it. I realise the change/date issue is not easy. You need 21 days before the tournament to prepare the team, 31 days for the tournament, then seven more days after it finishes. That is at least two months, and in certain northern hemisphere countries – especially England, Spain and Italy – it is not easy to suspend the league for so long in mid-season.

"Any suspension would have issues to solve: contractual situation with TV rights, players' holidays, transfer period, season ticket holders, salaries and bonuses."

These latter issues have entrenched opposition among the western European leagues whose clubs provide a majority of the players at the World Cup finals.

"Let us play a night-time schedule, when the temperatures have eased. No day games," says Mayne-Nicholls. "That would work well for European television schedules – Qatar is two hours ahead of Central European time and three ahead of British Summer Time – and it is not too bad either for China, India and Asia, and much better for South America."

The only snag Mayne-Nicholls can see is spectators and tourists will need to adapt their lifestyle and "live" during the night and sleep during the day.

As for the players, he says: "In principle I don't see any trouble. All the stadia and training sites will have cooling systems. Developing the technology is a challenge but I am sure they will come up with a good and clean system. The temperature in the stadia (including seats and pitch) will be between 18-22°C; the same for training grounds."

And Platini's desire for the matches to be shared around? Mayne-Nicholls says: "The Emir told us that for them this would be a Middle East World Cup and not only for Qatar. So they will have no problem in authorising it if teams wanted to train in different countries in the region, which might help with the weather issue.

"I feel this is possible in an area up to two-and-a-half hours away by air, which is the sort of trip teams were taking in South Africa. Then they will be able to have their camp in countries where the weather is not so hot. There are issues such as security, groups co-ordination, hotel payments and so on to be solved, but for that we have plenty of time."

A final thought. Mayne-Nicholls believes from the evidence he gleaned in Qatar that one issue is even more of a challenge than heat: transportation. WS

# How Qatar won the World Cup

Qatar will be welcoming the World Cup to the Middle East for the first time and to a Muslim country for the first time. It will also be the smallest country to stage world football's greatest event – a prize landed with an innovative bid which persuaded the FIFA executive committee into undertaking a sensational leap of faith.

The Qatar national team could be the first modern-times host to step out without ever having appeared previously in the finals.

The voting procedure – on December 2, 2010, among the FIFA ExCo – for 2022 was much more tightly contested than for 2018, with Qatar defeating the United States in the fourth and final round.

FIFA changed its mind on the morning of the vote. It had intended to keep the voting figures secret but these were ultimately published as follows:

- **Round 1:** Australia 1 vote, Japan 3 votes, US 3 votes, South Korea 4 votes, Qatar 11 votes (Australia eliminated)
- **Round 2:** Japan 2 votes, South Korea 5 votes, US 5 votes, Qatar 10 votes (Japan eliminated)
- **Round 3:** South Korea 5 votes, US 6 votes, Qatar 11 votes (South Korea eliminated)
- **Round 4:** US 8 votes, Qatar 14 votes (Qatar obtained an absolute majority)

Within days Franz Beckenbauer, who at the time was a FIFA ExCo member, and then Michel Platini raised the winter-switch issue. Two weeks after the vote, president Sepp Blatter joined in.

Blatter, in Doha to formalise the award of the tournament to the Gulf state, said: "I definitely support playing in winter here, to play when the climate is appropriate. And I'm thinking about the footballers, not only the fans but the players."

Qatar was expected to spend US$100billion over the next five years on infrastructure projects, including road and rail networks which had been planned even before it was chosen as host.

**Ours...the Emir of Qatar and his wife with a replica of the World Cup**

# Amsterdam Arena

Peterjon Cresswell visits the venue that will host this season's Europa League Final on May 15

Home of the reigning Dutch champions Ajax, the Amsterdam Arena predates Arsenal's Emirates and Bayern Munich's Allianz Arena as a contemporary new-build stadium that is capable of hosting regular club games and occasional international fixtures.

Opened in 1996, the ground replaced the classic De Meer, a pre-war landmark where the great Ajax sides entertained crowds of around 20,000. It was also where the iconic Johan Cruyff learned and displayed his skills, and close to the house where his mother took in the club's laundry.

The Ajax legend was sculpted at the modest ground on Middenweg in south-east Amsterdam, with Cruyff the star of a side that won three consecutive European Cups in the era of "Total Football" in the early 1970s. He went on to manage the next great Ajax side, who won the European Cup-winners Cup in 1987, and his tactics laid the groundwork for former RKSV De Meer youth-team player Louis Van Gaal to nurture the first Ajax team since Cruyff to win Europe's premier trophy.

Van Gaal's victory over Juventus in 1995 came just as the finishing touches were being added to the Amsterdam Arena. By now it was obvious that Ajax had outgrown De Meer, but the initial idea behind the building of a new stadium further south-east in Strandvliet was part of Amsterdam's bid to host the 1992 Olympics. That idea eventually came to nothing as the Games were awarded to Barcelona – but, after dropping the running track from the blueprint and incorporating the idea of a retractable roof into the plans, architect Rob Schuurman and his team began work in 1993.

**Old seats**

As well taking pieces of the De Meer turf when the old ground closed, some fans were even allowed to take their old seats, many of which ended up in their living rooms. Otherwise, the only element of the old stadium that made it down to the new location of Bijlmer was the proud four letters in bright red of "AJAX" which were placed at De Toekoemst (the future), the club's famous academy now set alongside the new venue.

With such loyalty to their favoured old ground, it is no wonder that many first looked upon the Amsterdam Arena with some distrust. Built on a vast patch of land in an otherwise economically depressed area, the stadium was ready in the summer of 1996.

Costing US$140million (£93m) to build, it was opened after a week-long, nationwide torch relay, with Cruyff himself leading the torch-lit procession ▸

All set...the Amsterdam Arena before Ajax's Champions League group stage game against Manchester City earlier this season

## TICKETS

As intimate as any 50,000-capacity superdome can be, two tiers of brightly coloured seats are accessed by 11 gates (the upper tier containing sectors 401-430, the lower 101-129). The home Zuid end (gates G-J, M) houses the notorious F-Side fans, while at the Noord end (A-C, K) away fans occupy sectors 416 and 417 through gate K.

The Ajax Fanshop are at the main entrance, Hoofdingang (gates D-F). For tickets, which are only available as part of a package, contact the club (+31 0548 377 755 or www.ajax.nl).

Picture this...supporters on a stadium tour

Past glories...the club's old De Meer home

New age...the approach to the Amsterdam Arena

Moved...relocating the F-side fans has helped with the atmosphere

from De Meer. Inaugurated in August 1996, with a friendly against Milan that was attended by the royal family, the Amsterdam Arena initially suffered complaints about a lack of atmosphere and, even worse, severe problems with the ill-lit turf.

Moving the former F-side fans – the club's most fanatical supporters' group – into one section helped, as did 14 changes of playing surface.

With a capacity of 53,000 – rising to 68,000 for rock concerts – the stadium was one of the first in Europe to adopt a pre-paid card system for all over-the-counter transactions.

After staging the Champions League Final between Real Madrid and Juventus in 1998, it was a key venue when Holland and Belgium co-hosted Euro 2000 and was the scene of Dutch heartbreak when the *Oranje* lost to Italy on penalties in the semi-final.

Once home to the now defunct Amsterdam Admirals, who were an American gridiron football team, the Amsterdam Arena is the epitome of a modern, all-purpose stadium. **WS**

Close...the Amsterdam Arena is within easy reach of the city centre and airport

## HOW TO GET THERE

Metro line 54 runs to Station Biljmer ArenA from Centraal Station, direction Gein. Allow 15 minutes. The previous stop of Strandvliet is also reasonably close and more convenient for the Noord end. Biljmer is also on a direct train line from Schiphol Airport, with a journey time less than 15 minutes. From Bijlmer, the ArenA is ahead as you turn left down the stairs from the platform.

## EATING & DRINKING

The main stadium pub is the Soccer World by the main entrance, owned by John Van't Schip, Danny Blind, Frank Rijkaard and the De Boer brothers, Frank and Ronald. TV screens and walls depict Ajax legends in this pre-match spot. Non-ticket holders are welcome. Also look out for a nameless match-day bar by the South entrance – look out for the Grolsch and Guinness signs – and the JinSo Asian restaurant.

Match-day meet...the Soccer World pub

## MUSEUM & TOUR

The downtown Ajax Experience at Rembrandtplein (Utrechtsestraat 9) focuses on the philosophy of the club through players such as Johan Cruyff, Marco Van Basten and Dennis Bergkamp. There are training pods to test your skills and a filmed speech by Frank De Boer in the dressing room. All four European Cups/Champions League trophies are on display. Admission is €17.50 (under-12s/over 65s €12.50, under-4s free), opening hours late Mar-early Nov daily 11am-7pm; early Nov-late Mar Tue-Sun 11am-6pm. The museum at the stadium is currently closed.

English-language World of Ajax stadium tours (€12, under-12s €10, under 5s free; 11 or 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.45pm, 4.30pm) last for one hour and depart from main entrance E. Pitch, dugouts and dressing rooms, are all taken in. Times and access may vary on match or training days.

On the west side of the main entrance of the arena is the Official Ajax Fanshop which sells a full range of branded merchandise, including, as we're in Amsterdam, logo'd bikes for men and women (€1,500).

All things Ajax...the fanshop and museum

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# World Service

The ultimate global news & results section

Going out...Rubin Kazan's Sergei Kislyak (right) eventually got the better of Saul Niguez of Europa League holders Atletico Madrid

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High fliers...Serie A sides Napoli (left) and Juventus

# WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
# Early surprises in the 'Hex'

CONCACAF's "Hexagonal", the final round of World Cup qualifiers featuring six nations, could prove to be an extremely tight affair if the opening round of matches are anything to go by.

United States suffered an early blow to their ambitions, losing away in Honduras, while Mexico and Costa Rica were held to draws by Jamaica and Panama respectively.

Traditionally, USA and Mexico have qualified comfortably from the six-nation "Hex", from which the top three teams qualify for Brazil 2014 and the fourth-place team enters a play-off against Oceania's top side.

Usually much of the attention focuses on the battle for third place, won by Honduras in 2010, Trinidad & Tobago in 2006, Costa Rica in 2002 and Jamaica in 1998. However, the early signs are that the region's two superpowers will not have it so easy this time around.

United States' 2-1 defeat in Honduras was the first time the Americans had lost their opening game of the final round since 1989. They had won all three of their previous matches at San Pedro Sula stadium.

Although Clint Dempsey put United States 1-0 up with a well-taken shot in the 35th minute, Honduras responded brightly and equalised through Juan Carlos Garcia's brilliant bicycle-kick four minutes later.

Upset...Honduras goalscorer Bengtson (no11) celebrates his winner against the USA with team-mate Oscar Garcia

Strong...Theo Robinson of Jamaica

Honduras dominated the second half and went ahead in the 78th minute when striker Jerry Bengtson took advantage of some poor defending and tapped into an empty net.

"Overall, there were too many mistakes and too many players today just didn't reach their usual potential," said US coach Jurgen Klinsmann. "They stayed behind their own game and it's really difficult coming away with a win here if you're not having everybody 100 per cent at their limits."

While the Americans were left to contemplate their poor start, Jamaica and Panama were celebrating unexpected points from their opening matches.

Mexico had been heavily favoured before their match against Jamaica, but they failed to break down the "Reggae Boyz" and played out a disappointing 0-0 draw at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City.

Mexico coach Jose Manuel de la Torre abandoned his usual 4-2-3-1 and opted to start with two forwards, with Oribe Peralta alongside Javier Hernandez. But, if anything, the change unsettled Mexico, who struggled at times to deal with the physicality of the Jamaican approach.

Panama raced to a surprise 2-0 lead over Costa Rica in Panama City.

Luis Henriquez shocked the visitors with a terrific finish in the 15th minute. Picking up a pass from Rolando Escobar, he turned and fired a low shot past Costa Rican keeper Patrick Pemberton. In the 28th minute, Marcos Sanchez set up Roman Torres, who turned the ball in at the near post.

Costa Rica rallied in the 39th minute when Alvaro Saborio scored with a powerful header from a corner. It looked like the Panamanians might be able to hold on, but Bryan Ruiz spoiled the party when he latched on to an overhead kick from Jaime Penedo to scored a late equaliser in the 83rd minute.

The United States will hope to get their campaign back on track in their first home match, at home to Costa Rica on March 22, before their toughest game of the round, away to Mexico four days later.

Mexico also have another difficult fixture, away to Honduras on March 22.

### Crucial stage

In Europe, World Cup qualifying reaches a crucial stage in March with some crunch games.

Spain head to Paris to face France, who are level on points with the world and European champions in Group I.

Croatia and Serbia meet in Group A, while the top two in Group G, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Greece, face each other.

England have to travel to Montenegro in Group H, while Poland host Ukraine.

***John Holmesdale***

## 2014 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

### EUROPE SECTION

● 13 finals places available

*(each team plays 10 times except Gp I, 8 times)*

**Group A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 10 |
| Croatia | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 10 |
| Serbia | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Macedonia | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Wales | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 3 |
| Scotland | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Croatia v Serbia; Macedonia v Belgium; Scotland v Wales
Mar 26: Belgium v Macedonia; Serbia v Scotland; Wales v Croatia

**Group B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Italy | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 10 |
| Bulgaria | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Czech Rep | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Armenia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Denmark | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Malta | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Bulgaria v Malta; Czech Rep v Denmark
Mar 26: Armenia v Czech Rep; Denmark v Bulgaria; Malta v Italy

**Group C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 6 | 10 |
| Sweden | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| Rep Ireland | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Austria | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Kazakhstan | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| Faroe Islands | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Austria v Faroe Islands; Kazakhstan v Germany; Sweden v Rep of Ireland
Mar 26: Germany v Kazakhstan; Rep of Ireland v Austria

**Group D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holland | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 12 |
| Hungary | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 9 |
| Romania | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| Turkey | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Estonia | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| Andorra | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Andorra v Turkey; Holland v Estonia; Hungary v Romania
Mar 26: Estonia v Andorra; Holland v Romania; Turkey v Hungary

**Group E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Switzerland | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 10 |
| Norway | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Albania | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Iceland | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Slovenia | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Cyprus | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 3 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Norway v Albania; Slovenia v Iceland
Mar 23: Cyprus v Switzerland

**Group F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Russia | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 12 |
| Israel | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 7 |
| Portugal | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| N Ireland | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Azerbaijan | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Luxembourg | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Israel v Portugal; Luxembourg v Azerbaijan; N Ireland v Russia
Mar 26: Azerbaijan v Portugal; N Ireland v Israel

**Group G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bosnia-Herz | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 10 |
| Greece | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| Slovakia | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Lithuania | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Latvia | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Liechtenstein | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Bosnia-Herzegovina v Greece; Liechtenstein v Latvia; Slovakia v Lithuania

**Group H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montenegro | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 10 |
| England | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 8 |
| Poland | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Moldova | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| Ukraine | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| San Marino | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Moldova v Montenegro; Poland v Ukraine; San Marino v England
Mar 26: Montenegro v England; Poland v San Marino; Ukraine v Moldova

**Group I**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| France | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Georgia | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Belarus | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| Finland | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: France v Georgia; Spain v Finland
Mar 26: France v Spain

● The 9 group winners qualify for the finals
● The 8 runners-up with the best record will be paired in 4 2-leg play-offs, the winners of which will also qualify for the finals

### OCEANIA SECTION

● 0.5 finals places available

#### 3rd round

*(single, round-robin group; each team plays 6 times)*

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Zealand | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 12 |
| New Caledonia | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 4 | 9 |
| Solomon Is | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 3 |
| Tahiti | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 0 |

**Remaining fixtures**
Mar 22: New Zealand v New Caledonia; Tahiti v Solomon Islands
Mar 26: New Caledonia v Tahiti; Solomon Islands v New Zealand

● The group winner will meet the 4th-placed CONCACAF team in a 2-leg play-off for a place in the finals

### SOUTH AMERICA SECTION

● 5.5 finals places available, one of which goes automatically to host Brazil

*(single, round-robin group; each team plays 16 times)*

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 20 | 7 | 20 |
| Ecuador | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 17 |
| Colombia | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 16 |
| Venezuela | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 12 |
| Uruguay | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 18 | 12 |
| Chile | 9 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 12 |
| Bolivia | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 8 |
| Peru | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 8 |
| Paraguay | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 7 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Argentina v Venezuela; Colombia v Bolivia; Peru v Chile; Uruguay v Paraguay
Mar 26: Bolivia v Argentina; Chile v Uruguay; Ecuador v Paraguay; Venezuela v Colombia

● The top 4 qualify for the finals
● The 5th-placed team will meet the winner of the Asia section play-off in a 2-leg play-off for a place in the finals

### AFRICA SECTION

● 5 finals places available

#### 2nd round *(each team plays 6 times)*

**Group A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ethiopia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Cent Af Rep | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| South Africa | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Botswana | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Ethiopia v Botswana; South Africa v Central African Republic

**Group B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tunisia | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Sierra Leone | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Eq Guinea | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Cape Verde Is | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Equatorial Guinea v Cape Verde Islands; Tunisia v Sierra Leone

**Group C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ivory Coast | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Tanzania | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Morocco | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Gambia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Ivory Coast v Gambia; Tanzania v Morocco

**Group D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zambia[1] | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Ghana | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| Sudan[1] | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Lesotho | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Ghana v Sudan; Lesotho v Zambia
*[1]Sudan's home game against Zambia last June, a 2-0 win to the hosts, was awarded as a 3-0 win to Zambia because Sudan fielded an ineligible player*

**Group E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Congo[1] | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Niger[2] | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Gabon[2] | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Burkina Faso[1] | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Burkina Faso v Niger; Congo v Gabon
*[1]The 0-0 draw between Burkina Faso and Congo last June was awarded as a 3-0 win to Congo because Burkina Faso fielded an ineligible player*
*[2]The 0-0 draw between Niger and Gabon last June was awarded as a 3-0 win to Niger because Gabon fielded an ineligible player*

**Group F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nigeria | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Namibia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Malawi | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Kenya | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Namibia v Malawi; Nigeria v Kenya

**Group G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Egypt | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Guinea | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Zimbabwe | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mozambique | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Egypt v Zimbabwe; Mozambique v Guinea

**Group H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benin | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Algeria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Mali | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Rwanda | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Algeria v Benin; Rwanda v Mali

**Group I**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Libya | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| DR Congo | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cameroon | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Togo | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Cameroon v Togo; DR Congo v Libya

**Group J**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senegal | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Uganda | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Angola | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Liberia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Liberia v Uganda; Senegal v Angola

● The 10 group winners qualify for the Africa section **3rd round**, where they will be paired in 5 2-leg ties, the winners of which will qualify for the finals

### ASIA SECTION

● 4.5 finals places available

#### 4th round *(each team plays 8 times)*

**Group A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uzbekistan | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| South Korea | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| Iran | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Qatar | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Lebanon | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 26: South Korea v Qatar; Uzbekistan v Lebanon

**Group B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Japan | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 13 |
| Australia | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Iraq | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Oman | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| Jordan | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 4 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 26: Australia v Oman; Jordan v Japan

● The top 2 in both groups qualify for the finals
● The 2 3rd-placed teams will meet in a 2-leg play-off, the winner of which will meet the 5th-placed South American team in a 2-leg play-off for a place in the finals

### CONCACAF SECTION

● 3.5 finals places available

#### 4th round

*(single, round-robin group; each team plays 10 times)*

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Honduras | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Costa Rica | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Panama | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Jamaica | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mexico | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| United States | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

**Next fixtures**
Mar 22: Honduras v Mexico; Jamaica v Panama; United States v Costa Rica
Mar 26: Costa Rica v Jamaica; Mexico v United States; Panama v Honduras

● The top 3 will qualify for the finals.
● The 4th-placed team will meet the Oceania section winner in a 2-leg play-off for a place in the finals

# USA: MLS
# All change at Chivas

**KEY DATES**

**Season started**
**March 2, 2013**

**Season finishes**
**October 27, 2013**

**MLS Cup Final**
**December 7/8, 2013**

The 18th season of Major League Soccer began with most of the 19 clubs having undergone a major overhaul of their playing staff since last term.

Founded in 2004 and owned by Jorge Vergara – who also owns Mexican club Guadalajara – Chivas USA's stated aim was to make themselves a predominantly Mexican club, with Mexican players playing a Mexican-style game. It was an exciting idea but has never been effectively put into practice.

After a poor first season, the Mexican idea was abandoned and a series of decidedly non-Mexican coaches came and went as Chivas USA became just another MLS club...and not a particularly good one.

But this season Vergara is taking a closer interest in what is going on. A new Mexican coach Jose Luis Sanchez Sola, who is known as "Chelis", has arrived and set about "Mexicanising" the team.

Last year's side has all but disappeared, with regular starters Juan Pablo Angel, Peter Vagenas, Danny Califf, Nick LaBrocca, James Riley, Alejandro Moreno and Shalrie Joseph leaving. In their place Chelis has brought in nine new players, eight of them Hispanic and four of them on loan from Guadalajara as the Mexican experiment gets a second chance.

At Colorado Rapids, coach Oscar Pareja has got rid of most of Gary Smith's 2010 championship-winning team in a huge makeover. And it looks likely that the same thing will happen at Toronto, where former New Zealand defender Ryan Nelsen has taken over after hanging up his boots at Queens Park Rangers. He has been joined by Kevin Payne, who has moved in as general manager after some 18 years in the same position with DC United, and the pair have wasted little time in making changes.

Nelsen's first move was to bring in his former QPR team-mate Hogan Ephraim on loan. It is hoped that Toronto can end a run of six barren years without qualifying for the play-offs with a set-up that was heavily reliant on European coaches and players.

A clear-out has also taken place at New York Red Bulls, where the Scandinavian influence that has been much in evidence during the past three

Introduction...Joaquin Velazquez (in red), who is on loan to Chivas USA from Guadalajara, is welcomed to MLS by Columbus Crew's Jairo Arrieta on the opening day of the season

Full house in Seattle...the Sounders attract attendances of 43,000 – which is far and away the best average in MLS – at CenturyLink Field

(unsuccessful) years has been banished. Norwegian general manager Erik Soler and Swedish coach Hans Backe have departed, along with five of the Scandinavian players they had imported. A young American, former Red Bulls defender Mike Petke is the surprise choice as new coach, while Scotland's Andy Roxburgh, a veteran of 18 years as UEFA's technical director, is now the club's sporting director. The changes will cut deep, but the Bulls, after 18 years of not winning anything, still have the look and the feel of a club searching for a personality.

New coach at Toronto...Nelsen

In Los Angeles little will change. Yes, David Beckham has gone, but that is likely to make coach Bruce Arena's role more effective. There is still hope that Chelsea and England midfielder Frank Lampard will arrive, while Brazilian midfielder Juninho, who has been on loan from Sao Paulo for the past three years, has now become a full-time Galaxy player. The only significant signing so far has been that of 39-year-old goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini from Tottenham Hotspur. However, Galaxy remain strong candidates to win their third consecutive MLS title.

Their chief rival may be another team from the Western Conference, Seattle Sounders, who boast an astonishing 43,000 average attendance. The Sounders have lost goalscorer Fredy Montero, who is returning to Colombia, while German midfielder Christian Tiffert, signed last year as a Designated Player, contributed little and appears to be on his way out. MLS veteran midfielder Shalrie Joseph arrived from Chivas USA in one last attempt to live up to his inflated reputation. His signing underlines that the 2013 Sounders are likely to be a more physical team than in years past.

***Paul Gardner***

**MLS 2013**

**Western Conference**

1. Chivas USA (Los Angeles)
   Los Angeles Galaxy
2. Colorado Rapids
3. Dallas
4. Portland Timbers
5. Real Salt Lake
6. San Jose Earthquakes
7. Seattle Sounders
8. Vancouver Whitecaps

**Eastern Conference**

9. Chicago Fire
10. Columbus Crew
11. DC United (Washington DC)
12. Houston Dynamo
13. New England Revolution (Foxborough)
14. New York Red Bulls (Harrison, NJ)
15. Montreal Impact
16. Philadelphia Union
17. Sporting Kansas City
18. Toronto

# USA: MLS
# Club-by-club guide

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

### CHICAGO FIRE
**Coach** Frank Klopas, since 2011
**Stadium** Toyota Park, soccer specific, 20,000
**Last season** 4th place in Eastern Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 16,409
**Arrivals** Quincy Amarikwa (Toronto), Dilly Duka (Columbus Crew), Jeff Larentowicz (Colorado Rapids), Joel Lindpere (New York Red Bulls), Maicon Santos (DC United)
**Departures** Alvaro Fernandez (loan to Al Rayyan, Qat), Dominic Oduro (Columbus Crew), Pavel Pardo (retired), Federico Puppo (loan to LDU Quito, Ecu)

### COLUMBUS CREW
**Coach** Robert Warzycha (Pol), since 2009
**Stadium** Columbus Crew Stadium, soccer specific, 20,455
**Last season** 6th place in Eastern Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 14,379
**Arrivals** Glauber (Rapid Bucharest, Rom), Dominic Oduro (Chicago Fire), Tyson Wahl (Colorado Rapids)
**Departures** Dilly Duka (Chicago Fire)

### DC UNITED
**Coach** Ben Olsen, since 2011
**Stadium** RFK Stadium, modified American football stadium, 45,596.
**Last season** 2nd place in Eastern Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 13,846
**Arrivals** Carlos Ruiz (unattached), James Riley (Chivas USA), Rafael (loan from Bahia, Bra), Marcos Sanchez (loan from Tauro, Pan)
**Departures** Branko Boskovic (Rapid Vienna, Aut), Andy Najar (Anderlecht, Blg), Maicon Santos (Chicago Fire)

### HOUSTON DYNAMO
**Coach** Dominic Kinnear, since 2006
**Stadium** BBVA Compass Stadium, soccer specific, 22,000
**Last season** 5th place in Eastern Conference; losing finalists in MLS Cup
**2012 average home attendance** 21,015
**Arrivals** Eric Brunner (Portland Timbers), Omar Cummings (Colorado Rapids), Andrew Driver (loan from Hearts, Sco)
**Departures** Colin Clark (Los Angeles Galaxy), Andre Hainault (Ross County, Sco)

Chicago switch...Estonia international midfielder Lindpere

### MONTREAL IMPACT
**Coach** Marco Schallibaum (Swi), since 2013
**Stadium** Stade Saputo, 20,000
**Last season** 7th place in Eastern Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 22,772*
**Arrivals** Andrea Pisanu (loan from Bologna, Ita)
**Departures** Josh Gardner (Sporting Kansas City), Lamar Neagle (Seattle Sounders), Greg Sutton (retired)

### NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION
**Coach** Jay Heaps, since 2012
**Stadium** Gillette Stadium, modified American football stadium, 68,756
**Last season** 9th place in Eastern Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 14,001
**Arrivals** Chad Barrett (unattached), Kalifa Cisse (Bristol City, Eng), Andy Dorman (Crystal Palace, Eng), Jose Goncalves (loan from Sion, Swi)
**Departures** Blake Brettschneider (Rochester Rhinos), Benny Feilharber (Sporting Kansas City)

MLS debut...Schallibaum

### NEW YORK RED BULLS
**Coach** Mike Petke, since 2012
**Stadium** Red Bull Arena, soccer specific, 25,000
**Last season** 3rd place in Eastern Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 18,281
**Arrivals** Fabian Espindola (Real Salt Lake), Juninho Pernambucano (Vasco da Gama, Bra), Kosuke Kimura (Portland Timbers), Josue Martinez (Philadelphia Union), Jamison Olave (Real Salt Lake)
**Departures** Kenny Cooper (Dallas), Sebastien Le Toux (Philadelphia Union), Joel Lindpere (Chicago Fire), Rafa Marquez (Leon, Mex), Victor Pallsson (NEC Nijmegen, Hol), Jan Gunnar Solli (Valerenga, Nor), Teemu Tainio (HJK Helsinki, Fin)

Veteran...Juninho has joined Red Bulls

### PHILADELPHIA UNION
**Coach** John Hackworth, since 2012
**Stadium** PPL Park, soccer specific, 18,500
**Last season** 8th place in Eastern Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 18,053
**Arrivals** Conor Casey (Colorado Rapids), Sebastien Le Toux (New York Red Bulls), Jeff Parke (Seattle Sounders)
**Departures** Josue Martinez (New York Red Bulls), Zach Pfeffer (loan to Hoffenheim, Ger)

### SPORTING KANSAS CITY
**Coach** Peter Vermes, since 2009
**Stadium** Sporting Park, soccer specific, 18,500
**Last season** winner of Eastern Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 19,404*
**Arrivals** Benny Feilharber (New England Revolution), Josh Gardner (Montreal Impact), Ike Opara (San Jose Earthquakes)
**Departures** Roger Espinoza (Wigan Athletic, Eng), Michael Harrington (Portland Timbers)

### TORONTO
**Coach** Ryan Nelsen (NZ), since 2013
**Stadium** BMO Field, soccer specific, 22,100
**Last season** 10th (last) in Eastern Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 18,155
**Arrivals** Justin Braun (Real Salt Lake), Danny Califf (Chivas USA), Hogan Ephraim (loan from Queens Park Rangers, Eng)
**Departures** Quincy Amarikwa (Chicago Fire), Torsten Frings (retired), Eric Hassli (Dallas), Joao Plata (Real Salt Lake)

Toronto move...Ephraim

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

### CHIVAS USA

**Coach** Jose Luis Sanchez Sola, since 2012
**Stadium** The Home Depot Center, soccer specific, 27,000
**Last season** 9th (last) place in Western Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 13,056
**Arrivals** Daniel Antunez (unattached), Eric Avila (Colorado Rapids), Giovanni Casillas (loan from Guadalajara, Mex), Mario De Luna (loan from Guadalajara, Mex), Edgar Mejia (loan from Guadalajara, Mex), Jose Manuel Rivera (unattached) Joaquin Velazquez (loan from Guadalajara, Mex), Walter Vilchez (Sporting Cristal, Per)
**Departures** Juan Pablo Angel (Atletico Nacional, Col), Danny Califf (Toronto), Shalrie Joseph (Seattle Sounders), Nick LaBrocca (Colorado Rapids), Alejandro Moreno (retired), James Riley (DC United), Peter Vagenas (released)

### COLORADO RAPIDS

**Coach** Oscar Pareja (Col), since 2012
**Stadium** Dick's Sporting Goods Park, soccer specific, 19,680
**Last season** 7th place in Western Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 15,175
**Arrivals** Edson Buddle (Los Angeles Galaxy), Atiba Harris (Vancouver Whitecaps), Nick LaBrocca (Chivas USA)
**Departures** Conor Casey (Philadelphia Union), Omar Cummings (Houston Dynamo), Jeff Larentowicz (Chicago Fire), Tyrone Marshall (released), Tyson Wahl (Columbus Crew)

### DALLAS

**Coach** Schellas Hyndman, since 2008
**Stadium** Pizza Hut Park, soccer specific, 20,500
**Last season** 6th place in Western Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 14,199
**Arrivals** Kenny Cooper (New York Red Bulls), Eric Hassli (Toronto)
**Departures** Brek Shea (Stoke City, Eng)

### LOS ANGELES GALAXY

**Coach** Bruce Arena, since 2008
**Stadium** The Home Depot Center, 27,000, shared with Chivas USA
**Last season** 4th place in Western Conference; MLS Cup champions
**2012 average home attendance** 23,136
**Arrivals** Colin Clark (Houston Dynamo), Carlo Cudicini (Tottenham, Eng), Juninho (Sao Paulo, Bra)
**Departures** Chad Barrett (New England Revolution), David Beckham (Paris Saint-Germain, Fra), Andrew Boyens (released), Edson Buddle (Colorado Rapids), Kyle Nakazawa (released), Pat Noonan (retired)

Fresh start...Cooper has left New York Red Bulls to rejoin former club Dallas

### PORTLAND TIMBERS

**Coach** Caleb Porter, since 2012
**Stadium** Jeld-Wen Field, 19,000
**Last season** 8th place in Western Conference; failed to make play-offs
**2012 average home attendance** 20,438*
**Arrivals** Michael Harrington (Sporting Kansas City), Will Johnson (Real Salt Lake), Frederic Piquionne (West Ham United, Eng), Mikael Silvestre (unattached), Diego Valeri (loan from Lanus, Arg)
**Departures** Eric Alexander (New York Red Bulls), Eric Brunner (Houston Dynamo), Robbie Findley (Real Salt Lake), Mike Fucito (San Jose Earthquakes), Kosuke Kimura (New York Red Bulls)

### REAL SALT LAKE

**Coach** Jason Kreis, since 2007
**Stadium** Rio Tinto Stadium, soccer specific, 20,000
**Last season** 2nd in Western Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 19,087
**Arrivals** Robbie Findley (Portland Timbers), Olmes Garcia (Deportivo Quindio, Col), Joao Plata (Toronto)
**Departures** Justin Braun (Toronto), Fabian Espindola (New York Red Bulls), Will Johnson (Portland Timbers), Jamison Olave (New York Red Bulls)

### SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

**Coach** Frank Yallop (Can), since 2008
**Stadium** Buck Shaw Stadium, 10,300
**Last season** winner of Western Conference with 66 points, highest regular season points total
**2012 average home attendance** 13,293*
**Arrivals** Nana Attakora (Haka, Fin), Mike Fucito (Portland Timbers)
**Departures** Ike Opara (Sporting Kansas City)

### SEATTLE SOUNDERS

**Coach** Sigi Schmid, since 2009
**Stadium** CenturyLink Field (2002), modified American football stadium, 67,700
**Last season** 3rd place in Western Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 43,144
**Arrivals** Lamar Neagle (Montreal Impact), Shalrie Joseph (Chivas USA), Djimi Traore (unattached)
**Departures** Fredy Montero (loan to Millonarios, Col), Jeff Parke (Philadelphia Union)

High jump...Traore

### VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

**Coach** Martin Rennie, since 2011
**Stadium** BC Place Stadium (1983, renovated 2011) multi-purpose stadium, 21,000
**Last season:** 5th place in Western Conference
**2012 average home attendance** 19,475
**Arrivals** Nigel Reo-Coker (Ipswich Town, Eng)
**Departures** Martin Bonjour (released) Atiba Harris (Colorado Rapids), Barry Robson (Sheffield United, Eng)

Race...Real Salt Lake's Plata (left) takes on New York Red Bulls

(* last season's average attendance is larger than current stadium capacity)

# JAPAN: J.LEAGUE DIVISION 1

# Champions' former boss eyes title

**KEY DATES**

**Season started**
**March 2, 2013**
**Season ends**
**December 7, 2013**

Ever since 2006, when he first arrived in Japan, Mihailo Petrovic has built a reputation as an extraordinary coach and, seven years on, everything is set this season for a showdown between the team that he built, last year's champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima, and the side he is building now, Urawa Red Diamonds.

The Serb started slowly at Hiroshima and they were relegated in his second season. However, he justified their faith by leading the team back up the next year as runaway champions of division two, and in their first year back in the top flight they finished fourth – their highest placing since 1994.

Petrovic left in December 2011 when an offer came from Urawa, but the work at Sanfrecce had been done and his successor and coaching protege, Hajime Moriyasu, was the first to admit that the medium-budget club owed last year's success to the man who had shown them the way.

"At Sanfrecce, we won our first championship in 20 years of trying and did it in my first year as manager," says Moriyasu. "But I want to say how grateful I am to my predecessor – our manager and my manager for the previous six years – Mihailo, for building this team. Thank you very much."

Mission...Petrovic will fancy Urawa's chances of pushing his former club all the way

### Super Cup success

Moriyasu knows that Petrovic now has Sanfrecce's title in his sights, but he is standing by the same team this year. The defending champions won the Japanese Super Cup in February, beating Kashiwa Reysol 1-0 with a strike from Hisato Sato, whose 22 goals won him the Golden Boot award last term. The only major departure has been that of full-back Ryota Moriwaki, who has joined Petrovic at Urawa.

Big-budget Urawa toyed with relegation in 2011 – their 36 league points that season would not have kept them up in 2012 – but, under Petrovic, they roared back to finish third last year and qualified for the AFC Champions League after a four-year absence.

Petrovic employs the trademark 3-4-2-1 formation that worked so well for him at Hiroshima and he has followed up last season's resurgence with a number of good signings.

In addition to Moriwaki, he has brought in creative wide midfielder Kunimitsu Sekiguchi from Vegalta Sendai, experienced utility man Daisuke Nasu from Kashiwa Reysol and hard-working striker Shinzo Koroki from Kashima Antlers. Moriwaki, Sekiguchi and Koroki have all made fringe appearances for the national side over the past few years.

Urawa's completion of former Hiroshima defender Tomoaki Makino's full transfer from Germany's Cologne after last year's loan confirms the renewed ambition of a club who became the first Japanese team to win the AFC Champions League, in 2007.

Their average league gate of 47,609 placed them in the world's top 20 in 2008, while a third place at the 2007 Club World Cup, technically, put them higher still. And yet they haven't won anything since. In Petrovic, however, they may finally have found a man who is capable of returning them to former glories.

Having finished fourth in 2011 and second last year, Vegalta Sendai may fancy their chances of a first title this term. But Sekiguchi will be missed and a lot depends on how their two new Brazilian midfielders: Diogo, who is on loan from Sport Recife, and Heberty, from second-tier Thespakusatsu Gunma. A third Brazilian, Wilson, who is one of the J.League's most feared centre-forwards, remains.

Kashiwa Reysol may challenge again for the title they lost last season. They never quite got going last season, but coach Nelsinho has a lot of new options with the arrival of defender Kim Chang-soo from Busan IPark and Brazilian striker Cleo, who joins on loan from Guangzhou Evergrande and played in both of the Chinese side's Champions League games against Kashiwa last year.

***Mike Plastow***

Cup win...Sanfreece's Koji Morisaki (left)

**J.LEAGUE 2013**

1. Kashima Antlers (Gtr Tokyo)
   Kashiwa Reysol
   Kawasaki Frontale
   Omiya Ardija
   Shonan Bellmare
   Tokyo
   Urawa Red Diamonds
   Ventforet Kofu
   Yokohama F. Marinos
2. Albirex Niigata
3. Cerezo Osaka
4. Nagoya Grampus
5. Jubilo Iwata
6. Oita Trinita
7. Shimizu S-Pulse
8. Sagan Tosu
9. Sanfrecce Hiroshima
10. Vegalta Sendai

# NORWAY: PREMIER LEAGUE

# Solskjaer seeks three in a row

Great expectations...Molde striker Chukwu (right) shields the ball from Stuttgart's Raphael Holzhauser during a Europa League game

**KEY DATES**

Season started
**March 15, 2013**
Season ends
**November 11, 2013**

When Molde won their first title in 2011, most people regarded it as a one-off. But after coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer repeated the trick last season the feeling began to grow that this was the dawn of a new era for the west coast club.

Solskjaer's years with Manchester United taught him the right way to build a successful club and he gathered the right blend of players, picked his own backroom staff and instilled a winning formula into the whole set up.

But while Molde will again be among the title contenders, their own success has seen bigger clubs take an interest in their better players. As a result, central defender Vegard Forren has joined Premier League side Southampton, striker Davy Claude Angan was signed by Hangzhou Greentown in China and Pape Pate Diouf was welcomed back to Copenhagen after his loan spell last term.

To compensate for his losses, Solskjaer has signed Senegalese striker Aliou Coly from Casa Sport after a trial this winter – although he will probably need time to adapt to the physical Norwegian league – and 21-year-old Finnish forward Lauri Dalla Valle from Fulham. Defender Even Hovland missed much of last year through injury, but his return – coupled with the emergence of Magnar Odegaard with Norway's Under-21 side – will help with the loss of Forren.

Up front, Jo Inge Berget and Daniel Chima Chukwu should provide the goals, while Josh Gatt and Zlatko Tripic add pace down the flanks. However, three friendly defeats by foreign opposition in January prove there is still some work to be done.

Among those pushing Molde for the title will be Rosenborg, who finished third last season and have brought back former coach Per Joar Hansen to replace Janne Jonsson. Hansen is expected to oversee a return to the quick, effective style of play, with pace down the wings, rather than the possession-based game advocated by Jonsson.

While experienced players such as Steffen Iversen (retired), Rade Prica (Maccabi Tel Aviv) and Daniel Fredheim Holm (Valerenga) have left, Danish duo Nicki Bille Nielsen and Tobias Mikkelsen have been recruited from Villarreal and Greuther Furth respectively. Tore Reginiussen has taken over the captaincy from Mikael Dorsin and Mix Diskerud opted to remain with the club for at least another season.

Expectations will be sky high at Valerenga this season after Martin Andresen's four-season reign came to an end and the man who led the Oslo club to the title in 2005, Kjetil Rekdal, was brought back. And he has wasted no time in letting his players know what he wants, banning all alcohol during the season.

Rekdal has also moved quickly to freshen up the squad. Andreas Nordvik, Yssouf Kone and Fredrik Stoor have left, and others have been warned they must prove their worth. Former players Daniel Fredheim Holm (Rosenborg) and Christian Grindheim (Copenhagen) have been brought back, while national team defensive midfielder Jan Gunnar Solli returned home after a couple of successful seasons with New York Red Bulls.

With an abundance of talent in the Valerenga squad, players such as Torgeir Borven and Mohammed Fellah are expected to blossom.

Among the other interesting moves during the close season were those of former national goalkeeper Hakon Opdal to Start from Danish club SonderjyskE and Stromsgodset's capture of Thomas Sorum from Helsingborg and Simen Brenne of Odd.

***Sigurd Odegaard***

**NORWEGIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2013**

1. Aalesund
2. Brann (Bergen)
3. Haugesund
4. Honefoss
5. Lillestrom
6. Molde
7. Odd (Skein)
8. Rosenborg (Trondheim)
9. Sandnes Ulf
10. Sarpsborg 08
11. Sogndal
12. Start (Kristiansand)
13. Stromsgodset (Drammen)
14. Tromso
15. Valerenga (Oslo)
16. Viking (Stavanger)

# SWEDEN: ALLSVENSKAN

# Elfsborg hope to break the mould

Togetherness...Elfsborg skipper Svensson (right) and his team celebrate a goal against relegated GAIS on the way to the title last term

## KEY DATES

**Season starts**
**March 31, 2013**
**Season ends**
**November 3, 2013**

No Swedish champions have successfully defended their title since Djurgarden in 2003, but last year's top dogs Elfsborg strengthened their squad sufficiently in pre-season to raise hopes of another victorious campaign.

Having embedded superior levels of organisation, work ethic and consistency deep within the side, coach Jorgen Lennartsson has now added Norwegian midfielder Henning Hauger from Hanover, highly-rated Hacken defender Tom Soderberg and bustling Sierra Leone striker Mohamed Bangura, who is on loan for the season from Celtic.

Although a major flop in the Scottish Premier League, ex-AIK star Bangura certainly knows the route to goal in the Allsvenskan and Elfsborg are banking on him providing the front-line prowess they have badly lacked. Last term not one of their players managed more than eight goals in the entire campaign. Bangura was on loan back at AIK for the second half of last year and had been widely expected to remain there in a similar deal for 2013. But when Celtic rejected AIK's offer, Elfsborg agreed to stump up 40 per cent of the 23-year-old's estimated £26,000 monthly salary.

The champions, however, can take nothing for granted. Their creative brains, 37-year-old skipper Anders Svensson, could "hit the wall" at any moment, while they will surely miss the industry, thrust and passing ability of central midfielder Oscar Hiljemark, who was lured away in January by PSV Eindhoven in a €2.2million deal.

AIK will also fancy their chances. Allsvenskan winners in 2009, runners-up in 2011 and fourth last term, they had the most watertight defence in the league last year, with only 27 goals conceded. With Croat keeper Ivan Turina and centre-backs, Nicklas Backman and Per Karlsson still around, Andreas Alm's side should be as hard to break down as ever.

Nor should Alm worry unduly about his team at the other end of the pitch. Costa Rica marksman Celso Borges, winger Martin Kayongo-Mutumba, front-runner Viktor Lundberg and Ghanaian striker Kwame Karikari all have much to offer. And the club now has even more options with the acquisition of former Sweden Under-19 star Nabil Bahoui from new boys Brommapojkarna and Nigerian forward Kennedy Igboananike from Djurgarden.

But it is 19-year-old Robin Quaison, in his second season in the top flight, who could hold the key for AIK. Arguably the most exciting young prospect in Sweden, the midfielder's poise, vision and unerringly accurate distribution has already brought him a national team call-up and there was much relief in Solna when he recently extended his contract until 2015.

A fundamental part of AIK's plan for the campaign is to derive maximum benefit from their recent move into the new Friends Arena, which doubles up as the national stadium. While their old home, the Rasunda, oozed history and character, the switch is generating a great deal of excitement and Alm's side will try to ride the wave.

Top of the Allsvenskan all-time performance table with 19 league crowns, Malmo came within a whisker of last season's title – overtaken by Elfsborg on the final weekend – and should be contenders once more.

Never short of a game-changing tactical tweak, coach Rikard Norling is set to adopt a 4-5-1 system this term. Apart from the signing of GAIS central defender Erik Johansson, Malmo also added Ghanaian striker Benjamin Fadi, Sweden Under-19 left-winger Emil Forsberg from Sundsvall and Magnus Eriksson, the former Atvidaberg striker who inexplicably lost his way during an unhappy stint in Belgium with Gent.

***Nick Bidwell***

Key figure...AIK midfielder Quaison

**ALLSVENSKAN 2013**

# ESM TEAM OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2013

European Sports Media

## HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions.
For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com

## SEASON RANKINGS Cumulative votes through the season

### GOALKEEPERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus) | 7 votes |
| Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich) | 7 |
| David De Gea (Manchester United) | 6 |
| Fraser Forster (Celtic) | 5 |
| Joe Hart (Manchester City) | 5 |
| Roman Weidenfeller (Borussia Dortmund) | 4 |
| Rene Adler (Hamburg) | 3 |
| Iker Casillas (Real Madrid) | 3 |
| Thibault Courtois (Atletico Madrid) | 3 |
| Wilfredo Caballero (Malaga) | 2 |
| Julio Cesar (Queens Park Rangers) | 2 |
| Petr Cech (Chelsea) | 2 |
| Morgan De Sanctis (Napoli) | 2 |
| Samir Handanovic (Internazionale) | 2 |
| Victor Valdes (Barcelona) | 2 |
| Asmir Begovic (Stok City) | 1 |
| Hugo Lloris (Tottenham Hotspur) | 1 |
| Federico Marchetti (Lazio) | 1 |
| Mattia Perrin (Pescara) | 1 |
| Rui Patricio (Sporting Lisbon) | 1 |
| Salvatore Sirigu (Paris Saint-Germain) | 1 |
| Kevin Trapp (Eintracht Frankfurt) | 1 |

### DEFENDERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Dante (Bayern Munich) | 21 |
| Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich) | 14 |
| Andrea Barzagli (Juventus) | 12 |
| Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus) | 11 |
| Rafael (Manchester United) | 11 |
| Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund) | 10 |
| Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City) | 8 |
| Jordi Alba (Barcelona) | 7 |
| Leighton Baines (Everton) | 7 |
| Ashley Cole (Chelsea) | 7 |
| Patrice Evra (Manchester United) | 7 |
| Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid) | 7 |
| Raphael Varane (Real Madrid) | 7 |
| Dani Alves (Barcelona) | 6 |
| Martin Demichelis (Malaga) | 5 |
| Adriano (Barcelona) | 4 |
| Vincent Kompany (Manchester City) | 4 |
| Pique (Barcelona) | 4 |
| Thiago Silva (Paris Saint-Germain) | 4 |
| Gary Cahill (Chelsea) | 3 |
| Jonny Evans (Manchester United) | 3 |
| Branislav Ivanovic (Chelsea) | 3 |
| David Luiz (Chelsea) | 3 |
| Andrea Ranocchia (Internazionale) | 3 |
| Marcel Schmelzer (Borussia Dortmund) | 3 |
| Jan Vertonghen (Tottenham Hotspur) | 3 |
| Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus) | 2 |
| Paolo Cannavaro (Napoli) | 2 |
| Chico (Swansea City) | 2 |
| Christophe Jallet (Paris Saint-Germain) | 2 |
| Timm Klose (Nuremberg) | 2 |
| Joleon Lescott (Manchester City) | 2 |
| Stephan Lichtsteiner (Juventus) | 2 |
| Filipe Luis (Atletico Madrid) | 2 |
| Marquinhos (Roma) | 2 |
| Pepe (Real Madrid) | 2 |
| Mamadou Sakho (Paris Saint-Germain) | 2 |
| Dario Srna (Shakhtar Donetsk) | 2 |
| David Alaba (Bayern Munich) | 1 |
| Raul Albiol (Real Madrid) | 1 |
| Alex (Paris Saint-Germain) | 1 |
| Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea) | 1 |
| Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich) | 1 |
| Hugo Campagnaro (Napoli) | 1 |
| Daniel Carvajal (Bayer Leverkusen) | 1 |
| Cicinho (Sevilla) | 1 |
| Mattia De Sciglio (Milan) | 1 |
| Rio Ferdinand (Manchester United) | 1 |
| Phil Jones (Manchester United) | 1 |
| Russell Martin (Norwich City) | 1 |
| Bruno Martins Indi (Feyenoord) | 1 |
| Rudy Mater (Valenciennes) | 1 |
| Philippe Mexes (Milan) | 1 |
| Miranda (Atletico Madrid) | 1 |
| Matija Nastasic (Manchester City) | 1 |
| Oscar (Chelsea) | 1 |
| Kyriakos Papadopoulos (Schalke) | 1 |
| Angel Rangel (Swansea City) | 1 |
| Gonzalo Rodriguez (Fiorentina) | 1 |
| Ivan Runje (Nordsjaelland) | 1 |
| Alex Sandro (Porto) | 1 |
| Neven Subotic (Borussia Dortmund) | 1 |
| John Terry (Chelsea) | 1 |
| Atsuto Uchida (Schalke) | 1 |
| Cristian Zapata (Milan) | 1 |

### MIDFIELDERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Gareth Bale (Tottenham Hotspur) | 22 |
| Andrea Pirlo (Juventus) | 13 |
| Juan Mata (Chelsea) | 12 |
| Xavi (Barcelona) | 12 |
| Andres Iniesta (Barcelona) | 11 |
| Toni Kroos (Bayern Munich) | 9 |
| Isco (Malaga) | 8 |
| Thomas Muller (Bayern Munich) | 8 |
| Marouane Fellaini (Everton) | 7 |
| Arturo Vidal (Juventus) | 7 |
| Mario Gotze (Borussia Dortmund) | 5 |
| Eden Hazard (Chelsea) | 5 |
| Michu (Swansea City) | 5 |
| Santi Cazorla (Arsenal) | 4 |
| Frank Lampard (Chelsea) | 4 |
| Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich) | 4 |
| Yaya Toure (Manchester City) | 4 |
| Xabi Alonso (Real Madrid) | 3 |
| Illkay Gundogan (Borussia Dortmund) | 3 |
| Hernanes (Lazio) | 3 |
| Claudio Marchisio (Juventus) | 3 |
| Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich) | 3 |
| Willian (Shakhtar Donetsk/Anzhi) | 3 |
| Michael Carrick (Manchester United) | 2 |
| Angel Di Maria (Real Madrid) | 2 |
| Steven Gerrard (Liverpool) | 2 |
| Luiz Gustavo (Bayern Munich) | 2 |
| Marek Hamsik (Napoli) | 2 |
| Szabolcs Huszti (Hanover) | 2 |
| Lucas Moura (Paris Saint-Germain) | 2 |
| Joao Moutinho (Porto) | 2 |
| Paul Pogba (Juventus) | 2 |
| Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund) | 2 |
| David Silva (Manchester City) | 2 |
| Arda Turan (Atletico Madrid) | 2 |
| Theo Walcott (Arsenal) | 2 |
| Massimo Ambrosini (Milan) | 1 |
| Kevin-Prince Boateng (Milan) | 1 |
| Kevin De Bruyne (Werder Bremen) | 1 |
| Fernandinho (Shakhtar Donetsk) | 1 |
| Sebastian Giovinco (Juventus) | 1 |
| Gokhan Inler (Napoli) | 1 |
| Joaquin (Malaga) | 1 |
| Stevan Jovetic (Fiorentina) | 1 |
| Kaka (Real Madrid) | 1 |
| Sebastian Kehl (Borussia Dortmund) | 1 |
| Javi Martinez (Bayern Munich) | 1 |
| Blaise Matuidi (Paris Saint-Germain) | 1 |
| Henrikh Mkhitaryan (Shakhtar Donetsk) | 1 |
| Riccardo Montolivo (Milan) | 1 |
| Jesus Navas (Sevilla) | 1 |
| Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid) | 1 |
| Pedro (Barcelona) | 1 |
| Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich) | 1 |
| Marco Verratti (Paris Saint-Germain) | 1 |
| Jack Wilshere (Arsenal) | 1 |

### FORWARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lionel Messi (Barcelona) | 56 |
| Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain) | 30 |
| Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid) | 27 |
| Radamel Falcao (Atletico Madrid) | 26 |
| Robin Van Persie (Manchester United) | 18 |
| Edinson Cavani (Napoli) | 11 |
| Stephan El Shaarawy (Milan) | 7 |
| Mario Mandzukic (Bayern Munich) | 7 |
| Mario Balotelli (Manchester City/Milan) | 4 |
| Luis Suarez (Liverpool) | 3 |
| Mauro Icardi (Sampdoria) | 2 |
| Stefan Kiessling (Bayer Leverkusen) | 2 |
| Jackson Martinez (Porto) | 2 |
| Wilfried Bony (Vitesse) | 1 |
| Burak Yilmaz (Galatasaray) | 1 |
| Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke) | 1 |
| Adam Le Fondre (Reading) | 1 |
| Robert Lewandowski (Borussia Dortmund) | 1 |
| Diego Milito (Internazionale) | 1 |
| Robinho (Milan) | 1 |
| Wayne Rooney (Manchester United) | 1 |

### ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

**The members of ESM are:** *A Bola* (Portugal) *Elf* (Holland) *Fanatik* (Turkey) *Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung* (Germany) *Kicker* (Germany) *Marca* (Spain) *Sport* (Belgium) *Sport Express* (Russia) *De Telegraaf* (Holland) *TIPSbladet* (Denmark) *World Soccer* (England)
More details of votes at worldsoccer.com

BELGIUM

### Cercle in play-off

A 3-0 defeat at home to city rivals Club Brugge condemned Cercle to an end-of-season relegation play-off against either Beerschot or Lierse.

Oscar Duarte, Eidur Gudjohnsen – who was signed from Cercle in January – and then Vadis Odjidja-Ofoe scored for the visiting side.

BULGARIA

### Etar's drastic action

Bottom of the league at the mid-season break, Etar Veliko Tarnovo – who were league champions in 1991 – signed 16 new players in a bid to avoid relegation.

The newcomers are from 11 different countries, including Afghanistan and Cape Verde Islands.

Club captain Niko Petrov quit during a five-week training camp in Turkey, saying: "This is not the team that I know, a team with a great history. This is a parody."

The Bulgarian Football Union has said that games will be abandoned in the event of any racist behaviour by supporters following the league's resumption after a three-month winter break.

End of an era...Carragher

**150 games Jamie Carragher, who will retire in May, has played in Europe for Liverpool**

# Club Results

## EUROPE

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

#### 1st knockout round

1st legs

*Feb 12*

**Celtic (Sco) 0**
**Juventus (Ita) 3** (Matri 3, Marchisio 77, Vucinic 83)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 57,917. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
**Celtic:** Forster - Lustig (Matthews 59), Wilson, Ambrose, Izaguirre, Brown (Kayal 80), Wanyama, Mulgrew, Commons (Watt 73), Forrest, Hooper.
**Juventus:** Buffon - Barzagli, Bonucci, Caceres, Lichtsteiner, Vidal, Pirlo, Marchisio, Peluso (Padoin 69), Matri (Pogba 81), Vucinic (Anelka 86).

*Feb 12*

**Valencia (Spa) 1** (Rami 90)
**Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 2** (Lavezzi 10, Pastore 43)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
**Valencia:** Guaita - Joao Pereira, Rami, Ricardo Costa, Guardado, Parejo, Tino Costa, Feghouli (Viera 84), Banega (Canales 46), Jonas (Haedo Valdez 46), Soldado.
**PSG:** Sirigu - Jallet, Alex, Sakho, Maxwell, Lucas Moura (Chantome 53), Matuidi, Verratti, Pastore (Armand 88), Lavezzi (Menez 76), Ibrahimovic.
*Sent off: Ibrahimovic 90+2min.*

*Feb 13*

**Real Madrid (Spa) 1** (Cristiano Ronaldo 30)
**Manchester United (Eng) 1** (Welbeck 20)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 79,429. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
**Real Madrid:** Diego Lopez - Arbeloa, Varane, Sergio Ramos, Fabio Coentrao, Khedira, Xabi Alonso (Pepe 84), Di Maria (Modric 75), Ozil, Cristiano Ronaldo, Benzema (Higuain 60).
**Man Utd:** De Gea - Rafael, Ferdinand, Evans, Evra, Carrick, Jones, Rooney (Anderson 84), Kagawa (Giggs 64), Welbeck (Valencia 73), Van Persie.

*Feb 13*

**Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 2** (Srna 31, Douglas Costa 68)
**Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 2** (Lewandowski 41, Hummels 87)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 49,050. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
**Shakhtar:** Pyatov - Srna, Chygrynskyi, Rakytskyi, Rat, Fernandinho, Hubschman, Alex Teixeira (Eduardo 83), Mkhitaryan, Taison (Douglas Costa 62), Luiz Adriano.
**Dortmund:** Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Felipe Santana, Hummels, Schmelzer, Kehl, Bender, Blaszczykowski (Leitner 80), Gotze, Reus (Schieber 90+1), Lewandowski.

*Feb 19*

**Arsenal (Eng) 1** (Podolski 55)
**Bayern Munich (Ger) 3** (Kroos 7, Muller 21, Mandzukic 77)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 59,974. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
**Arsenal:** Szczesny - Sagna, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Vermaelen, Wilshere, Arteta, Ramsey (Rosicky 71), Cazorla, Podolski (Giroud 71), Walcott.
**Bayern:** Neuer - Lahm, Van Buyten, Dante, Alaba, Javi Martinez, Schweinsteiger, Muller, Kroos (Luiz Gustavo 73), Ribery (Robben 63), Mandzukic (Gomez 78).

*Feb 19*

**Porto (Por) 1** (Joao Moutinho 56)
**Malaga (Spa) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 42,209. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
**Porto:** Helton - Danilo, Otamendi, Mangala, Alex Sandro, Fernando, Gonzalez (Castro 90+1), Joao Moutinho, Izmailov (Atsu 70), Varela (Rodriguez 58), Martinez.
**Malaga:** Caballero - Sergio Sanchez, Demichelis, Weligton, Antunes, Toulalan, Iturra (Camacho 78), Joaquin (Portillo 63), Isco, Julio Baptista (Lucas Piazon 78), Santa Cruz.

*Feb 20*

**Galatasaray (Tur) 1** (Burak 12)
**Schalke (Ger) 1** (Jones 45)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 50,734. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
**Galatasaray:** Muslera - Sabri (Umut 83), Semih, Nounkeu, Riera, Felipe Melo, Selcuk, Altintop (Eboue 66), Sneijder (Amrabat 46), Burak, Drogba.
**Schalke:** Hildebrand - Hoger, Howedes, Matip, Kolasinac, Jones, Neustadter, Farfan, Draxler (Barnetta 84), Michel Bastos, Huntelaar (Pukki 75).

*Feb 20*

**Milan (Ita) 2** (Boateng 57, Muntari 81)
**Barcelona (Spa) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 79,532. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
**Milan:** Abbiati - Abate, Mexes, Zapata, Constant, Ambrosini, Montolivo, Muntari, Boateng, Pazzini (Niang 75), El Shaarawy (Traore 88).
**Barcelona:** Valdes - Daniel Alves, Pique, Puyol (Mascherano 88), Jordi Alba, Xavi, Busquets, Fabregas (Sanchez 62), Pedro, Messi, Iniesta.

### EUROPA LEAGUE

#### 1st knockout round

*1st legs - Feb 14; 2nd legs - Feb 21*

Ajax (Hol) v Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2-0, 0-2 (aet) (agg 2-2, Steaua 4-2 on pens);
Anzhi Makhachkala (Rus) v Hanover (Ger) 3-1, 1-1 (agg 4-2); Atletico Madrid (Spa) v Rubin Kazan (Rus) 0-2, 1-0 (agg 1-2); Basle (Swi) v Dnipro (Ukr) 2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1); BATE Borisov (Bls) v Fenerbahce (Tur) 0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1);
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Benfica (Por) 0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3); Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) v Bordeaux (Fra) 1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2); Internazionale (Ita) v CFR Cluj (Rom) 2-0, 3-0 (agg 5-0); Levante (Spa) v Olympiakos (Gre) 3-0, 1-0 (agg 4-0);
Monchengladbach (Ger) v Lazio (Ita) 3-3, 0-2 (agg 3-5); Napoli (Ita) v Viktoria Plzen (CzR) 0-3, 0-2 (agg 0-5); Newcastle (Eng) v Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr) 0-0, 1-0 (agg 1-0); Sparta Prague (CzR) v Chelsea (Eng) 0-1, 1-1 (agg 1-2);
Stuttgart (Ger) v Genk (Blg) 1-1, 2-0 (agg 3-1); Tottenham (Eng) v Lyon (Fra) 2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2); Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) v Liverpool (Eng) 2-0, 1-3 (agg 3-3, Zenit on away goals)

### AUSTRIA

Feb 16: Ried 3 Wacker 0; Mattersburg 0 Sturm 0; Admira 1 Wiener Neustadt 2.
Feb 17: Rapid 1 Austria 2.
Feb 20: Ried 1 Wolfsberger 1.
Feb 23: Wacker 2 Mattersburg 0; Wiener Neustadt 0 Ried 0; Sturm 1 Wolfsberger 3; Austria 4 Admira 0.
Feb 24: Salzburg 3 Rapid 3.
Feb 27: Ried 1 Austria 3; Rapid 1 Sturm 1; Wacker 1 Wiener Neustadt 0.
Mar 2: Sturm 1 Admira 2; Salzburg 3 Wiener Neustadt 1; Austria 4 Wacker 0; Mattersburg 1 Ried 0.
Mar 3: Wolfsberger 2 Rapid 1.

| AUSTRIA | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | 24 | 19 | 3 | 2 | 61 | 18 | 60 |
| Salzburg | 22 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 53 | 24 | 45 |
| Rapid | 24 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 38 | 24 | 40 |
| Sturm | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 36 | 31 | 37 |
| Ried | 24 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 40 | 36 | 31 |
| Wolfsberger | 22 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 33 | 35 | 28 |
| Mattersburg | 23 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 24 | 46 | 25 |
| Wacker | 24 | 7 | 1 | 16 | 19 | 49 | 22 |
| Admira | 23 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 34 | 49 | 20 |
| W Neustadt | 24 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 44 | 20 |

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

### BELGIUM

Regular season

Feb 9: Beerschot 0 Genk 2; Club Brugge 3 OH Leuven 1; Charleroi 1 Lierse 0; Lokeren 1 Zulte Waregem 1; Kortrijk 1 Gent 0; Mechelen 2 Cercle Brugge 0.
Feb 10: Standard 0 Mons 1; Waasland-Beveren 1 Anderlecht 2.
Feb 15: Anderlecht 2 Charleroi 0.
Feb 16: Cercle Brugge 0 Standard 1; Zulte Waregem 2 Waasland-Beveren 0; OH Leuven 1 Beerschot 1; Lierse 0 Mechelen 2; Mons 0 Gent 2.
Feb 17: Lokeren 1 Club Brugge 1; Genk 2 Kortrijk 0.
Feb 20: Charleroi 2 Cercle Brugge 1.
Feb 23: Gent 2 Cercle Brugge 0; Beerschot 1 Lierse 3; Kortrijk 0 Mons 1; Mechelen 1 OH Leuven 2; Waasland-Beveren 0 Lokeren 0.
Feb 24: Club Brugge 2 Anderlecht 2; Standard 0 Genk 0.
Feb 27: Anderlecht 0 Zulte Waregem 1.
Feb 28: Cercle Brugge 0 Club Brugge 3.
Mar 3: Charleroi 0 Zulte Waregem 1.

| BELGIUM – REGULAR | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anderlecht | 28 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 67 | 26 | 63 |
| Z Waregem | 28 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 45 | 25 | 60 |
| Genk | 28 | 13 | 10 | 5 | 55 | 37 | 49 |
| Club Brugge | 28 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 61 | 42 | 48 |
| Standard | 28 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 50 | 31 | 47 |
| Lokeren | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 50 | 37 | 47 |
| Mechelen | 28 | 12 | 5 | 11 | 42 | 38 | 41 |
| Mons | 28 | 12 | 5 | 11 | 44 | 47 | 41 |
| Kortrijk | 28 | 11 | 5 | 12 | 31 | 29 | 38 |
| OH Leuven | 28 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 46 | 47 | 35 |
| Gent | 28 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 30 | 36 | 33 |
| Charleroi | 28 | 9 | 3 | 16 | 26 | 48 | 30 |
| Waasland-B | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 25 | 44 | 27 |
| Lierse | 28 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 27 | 50 | 23 |
| Beerschot | 28 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 26 | 57 | 20 |
| Cercle Brugge | 28 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 28 | 59 | 14 |

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 will form championship group, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League-place play-offs, 15th & 16th (bottom 2) will enter relegation play-off series – the winner of which will enter rel/prom play-offs, the loser will be relegated

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Feb 22: Teplice 1 Dukla 1; Jihlava 0 Hradec Kralove 0.
Feb 23: Ostrava 0 Ceske Budejovice 0; Liberec 1 Jablonec 0.
Feb 24: Mlada Boleslav 1 Pribram 0; Olomouc 2 Slavia 1; Sparta 4 Slovacko 0.
Feb 25: Brno 1 Plzen 3.
Mar 1: Jihlava 0 Liberec 0; Ceske Budejovice 0 Sparta 2.
Mar 2: Pribram 3 Teplice 1.
Mar 3: Jablonec 2 Brno 0; Hradec Kralove 0 Olomouc 2; Slavia 1 Mlada Boleslav 1; Plzen 1 Ostrava 1.
Mar 4: Slovacko 0 Dukla 0.

| CZECH REPUBLIC | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plzen | 18 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 31 | 13 | 38 |
| Sparta | 18 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 29 | 12 | 37 |
| Jablonec | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 35 |
| Olomouc | 18 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 16 | 33 |
| M Boleslav | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 21 | 21 | 28 |
| Dukla | 18 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 27 | 23 | 24 |
| Liberec | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 23 | 25 | 23 |
| Slovacko | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 21 | 24 | 21 |
| Jihlava | 18 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 21 | 27 | 21 |
| Brno | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 21 | 32 | 21 |
| Slavia | 18 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 22 | 19 |
| Ostrava | 18 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 29 | 19 |
| H Kralove | 18 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 17 | 22 | 17 |
| Teplice | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 29 | 17 |
| C Budejovice | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 16 |
| Pribram | 18 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 26 | 16 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

### DENMARK

Mar 1: Silkeborg 3 AaB 2.
Mar 2: Midtjylland 1 SonderjyskE 0.
Mar 3: Nordsjaelland 1 Horsens 0; Brondby 0 Randers 2; OB 2 Copenhagen 3.
Mar 4: Esbjerg 2 AGF 1.

| DENMARK | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copenhagen | 21 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 49 | 19 | 50 |
| Nordsjaelland | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 38 | 21 | 38 |
| Randers | 21 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 31 | 34 |
| AaB | 20 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 35 | 27 | 32 |
| OB | 20 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 35 | 28 | 31 |
| AGF | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 36 | 29 | 30 |
| Midtjylland | 21 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 28 | 32 | 25 |
| Horsens | 21 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 19 | 30 | 23 |
| Esbjerg | 21 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 25 | 22 |
| SonderjyskE | 21 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 29 | 42 | 21 |
| Silkeborg | 21 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 25 | 44 | 21 |
| Brondby | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 34 | 17 |

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

### ENGLAND

Saturday, February 9

**Chelsea 4** (Ramires 23, Hazard 56, Lampard 86, Marin 90+2)
**Wigan 1** (Maloney 58) Att: 41,562

**Norwich 0**
**Fulham 0** Att: 26,816

**Southampton 3** (Puncheon 7, S Davis 22, Barry og 48)
**Manchester City 1** (Dzeko 39) Att: 31,738

**Stoke 2** (Huth 67, Jerome 81)
**Reading 1** (Mariappa 83) Att: 26,737

ENGLAND

## Giggs' goal record

Ryan Giggs' goal in Manchester United's 2-0 win at home to Everton meant the 39-year-old has scored in every one of the 21 Premier League seasons.

ESTONIA

## Super Cup success

Artur Rattel (twice) and Igor Subbotin were on target as cup holders Levadia Tallinn beat defending champions Nomme Kalju 3-0 in the Super Cup in Tallinn.

FRANCE

## Sirigu beaten at last

Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu was finally beaten after 947 minutes of not conceding a goal in Ligue 1 when Bastia's Wahbi Khazri scored a late consolation for the hosts as PSG won 3-1.

Third-tier Epinal's giant-killing run in the French Cup came to an end in the last 16 when they lost 2-0 at Lens. The Championnat National side, who had beaten holders Lyon on penalties in the round of 64, went out to a Pierrick Valdivia penalty and an own goal from Calvin Mangan.

Cup clash...Epinal's Tristan Boubaya (centre) takes on Lens

**Sunderland 0**
**Arsenal 1** (Cazorla 35) Att: 46,402

**Swansea 4** (Michu 8, 67, Rangel 18, Pablo 50)
**Queens Park Rangers 1** (Zamora 48) Att: 20,529

**Tottenham 2** (Bale 5, 78)
**Newcastle 1** (Gouffran 24) Att: 36,244

Sunday, February 10
**Aston Villa 2** (Benteke pen 74, N'Zogbia 79)
**West Ham 1** (Westwood og 87) Att: 30,503

**Manchester United 2** (Giggs 13, Van Persie 45+1)
**Everton 0** Att: 75,525

Monday, February 11
**Liverpool 0**
**West Bromwich 2** (McAuley 81, Lukaku 90)
Att: 44,752

Sunday, February 17
**Liverpool 5** (Gerrard pen 34, Coutinho 46, Jose Enrique 50, Suarez 56, Sturridge pen 71)
**Swansea 0** Att: 44,832

Saturday, February 23
**Arsenal 2** (Cazorla 6, 85)
**Aston Villa 1** (Weimann 68) Att: 60,079

**Fulham 1** (Berbatov 45+2)
**Stoke 0** Att: 25,458

**Norwich 2** (Kamara 84, Holt 90+4)
**Everton 1** (Osman 39) Att: 26,828

**Queens Park Rangers 0**
**Manchester United 2** (Rafael 23, Giggs 80)
Att: 18,337

**Reading 0**
**Wigan 3** (Kone 44, 45+2, Figueroa 48) Att: 22,321

**West Bromwich 2** (Lukaku pen 35, 75)
**Sunderland 1** (Sessegnon 79) Att: 25,924

Sunday, February 24
**Manchester City 2** (Y Toure 63, Tevez 85)
**Chelsea 0** Att: 47,256

**Newcastle 4** (Sissoko 33, Cisse 42, Cabaye pen 67, Hooiveld og 79)
**Southampton 2** (Schneiderlin 3, Lambert 50)
Att: 52,259

Monday, February 25
**West Ham 2** (Carroll pen 25, J Cole 58)
**Tottenham 3** (Bale 13, 90, Sigurdsson 76)
Att: 35,005

Saturday, March 2
**Chelsea 1** (Ba 28)
**West Bromwich 0** Att: 41,548

**Everton 3** (Fellaini 42, Pienaar 59, Mirallas 66)
**Reading 1** (Robson-Kanu 84) Att: 35,244

**Manchester United 4** (Kagawa 45+1, 76, 87, Rooney 90)
**Norwich 0** Att: 75,586

**Southampton 1** (Ramirez 45+1)
**Queens Park Rangers 2** (Remy 14, Bothroyd 77)
Att: 31,728

**Stoke 0**
**West Ham 1** (Collison 45+4) Att: 26,250

**Sunderland 2** (Gardner pen 37, Sessegnon 70)
**Fulham 2** (Berbatov pen 16, Riether 35)
Att: 39,312

**Swansea 1** (Moore 85)
**Newcastle 0** Att: 20,405

**Wigan 0**
**Liverpool 4** (Downing 2, Suarez 18, 34, 49)
Att: 20,804

Sunday, March 3
**Tottenham 2** (Bale 37, Lennon 39)
**Arsenal 1** (Mertesacker 51) Att: 36,170

Monday, March 4
**Aston Villa 0**
**Manchester City 1** (Tevez 45+1) Att: 33,217

ENGLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man United | 28 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 68 | 31 | 71 |
| Man City | 28 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 51 | 24 | 59 |
| Tottenham | 28 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 49 | 33 | 54 |
| Chelsea | 28 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 56 | 30 | 52 |
| Arsenal | 28 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 53 | 32 | 47 |
| Everton | 28 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 44 | 35 | 45 |
| Liverpool | 28 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 53 | 34 | 42 |
| Swansea | 28 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 39 | 34 | 40 |
| West Brom | 28 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 38 | 37 | 40 |
| Fulham | 28 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 39 | 44 | 33 |
| Stoke | 28 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 26 | 33 | 33 |
| West Ham | 28 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 32 | 41 | 33 |
| Norwich | 28 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 27 | 45 | 32 |
| Sunderland | 28 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 31 | 38 | 30 |
| Newcastle | 28 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 38 | 49 | 30 |
| Southampton | 28 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 39 | 51 | 27 |
| Wigan | 28 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 33 | 55 | 24 |
| Aston Villa | 28 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 26 | 53 | 24 |
| Reading | 28 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 34 | 54 | 23 |
| QPR | 28 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 21 | 44 | 20 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers
21 Luis Suarez (Liverpool)
19 Robin Van Persie (Manchester United)
16 Gareth Bale (Tottenham)
15 Demba Ba (Newcastle/Chelsea)
15 Michu (Swansea)

## FA CUP

Last 32

*Replays*
Feb 12: Leicester 1 Huddersfield 2.
Feb 12: Chelsea 4 Brentford 0.

Last 16
Feb 16: Arsenal 0 Blackburn 1; Luton 0 Millwall 3; Milton Keynes Dons 1 Barnsley 3; Oldham 2 Everton 2.
Feb 17: Huddersfield 1 Wigan 4; Manchester City 4 Leeds 0.
Feb 18: Manchester United 2 Reading 1.
Feb 27: Middlesbrough 0 Chelsea 2.

*Replay*
Feb 26: Everton 3 Oldham 1.

## LEAGUE CUP

Final
*Feb 24 - London (Wembley)*
**Bradford 0**
**Swansea 5** (Dyer 16, 47, Michu 40, De Guzman pen 59, 90)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 82,597. **Ref:** Friend
*Sent off: Duke (Bradford) 56min*

## FRANCE

Friday, February 8
**Paris Saint-Germain 3** (Menez 56, Ibrahimovic pen 72, Lavezzi 89)
**Bastia 1** (Khazri 83) Att: 44,619

Saturday, February 9
**AC Ajaccio 1** (Faty 31)
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 6,513

**Nancy 1** (Puygrenier 29)
**Reims 2** (Ayite 48, Fortes 58) Att: 15,063

**Nice 1** (Eysseric 82)
**Lorient 1** (Mareque 75) Att: 8,733

**Saint-Etienne 4** (Brandao 13, Aubameyang 28, Mollo 48, Bodmer 74)
**Montpellier 1** (Cabella 49) Att: 21,476

**Troyes 0**
**Sochaux 0** Att: 13,967

**Valenciennes 2** (Dossevi 10, Mater 45+1)
**Brest 1** (Raspentino 90) Att: 12,374

Sunday, February 10
**Evian TG 1** (Sagbo pen 59)
**Marseille 1** (Gignac 50) Att: 14,097

**Lyon 1** (Lopez pen 57)
**Lille 3** (Chedjou 28, Balmont 45, Kalou pen 50)
Att: 30,705

**Rennes 2** (Alessandrini 79, Erdinc 84)
**Toulouse 0** Att: 15,055

Friday, February 15
**Lille 2** (Mavinga og 24, Payet 61)
**Rennes 0** Att: 36,929

Saturday, February 16
**Bastia 0**
**Nice 1** (Maupay 61) Att: 15,555

**Brest 1** (Raspentino 12)
**AC Ajaccio 1** (Oliech 70) Att: 12,667

**Lorient 2** (Aliadiere pen 42, Monnet-Paquet 78)
**Evian TG 1** (Betao 83) Att: 15,498

**Marseille 1** (Fanni 90+4)
**Valenciennes 0** Att: 31,446

**Montpellier 1** (Herrera 34)
**Nancy 0** Att: 14,462

**Toulouse 2** (Ben Basat 87, Didot 88)
**Troyes 2** (Yattara 78, Nivet 83) Att: 12,033

Sunday, February 17
**Bordeaux 0**
**Lyon 4** (Grenier 15, pen 73, Fofana 65, Lacazette 75) Att: 27,240

**Reims 1** (Courtet 76)
**Saint-Etienne 1** (Aubameyang 10) Att: 19,169

**Sochaux 3** (Roudet 36, Sio 54, Bakambu 84)
**Paris Saint-Germain 2** (Alex 29, Roussillon og 76)
Att: 19,390

Friday, February 22
**Nice 2** (Eysseric pen 11, Civelli 85)
**Reims 0** Att: 8,463

Saturday, February 23
**AC Ajaccio 1** (Belghazouani 77)
**Lille 3** (Poulard og 38, Payet 68, 74) Att: 5,073

**Evian TG 0**
**Montpellier 1** (Belhanda 80) Att: 7,892

**Nancy 0**
**Saint-Etienne 3** (Brandao 17, Aubameyang 39, 88)
Att: 13,328

**Rennes 2** (Boye 34, Makoun 88)
**Sochaux 2** (Sio 21, Corchia 56) Att: 13,767

**Troyes 0**
**Bastia 0** Att: 10,750

**Valenciennes 0**
**Toulouse 0** Att: 11,470

Sunday, February 24
**Bordeaux 0**
**Brest 2** (Tremoulinas og 19, Kantari pen 83)
Att: 14,261

**Lyon 3** (Lopez 24, Ghezzal 50, Mvuemba 90+2)
**Lorient 1** (Aliadiere 11) Att: 30,343

**Paris Saint-Germain 2** (N'Koulou og 11, Ibrahimovic 90+1)
**Marseille 0** Att: 44,984

Friday, March 1
**Montpellier 2** (Hilton 75, Camara 86)
**Rennes 0** Att: 16,934

Saturday, March 2
**Bastia 1** (Maoulida 47)
**AC Ajaccio 0** Att: 15,205

**Lorient 1** (Monnet-Paquet 4)
**Valenciennes 1** (Danic pen 80) Att: 14,864

**Reims 1** (Krychowiak 64)
**Paris Saint-Germain 0** Att: 20,098

**Saint-Etienne 4** (Aubameyang pen 7, Brandao 60, 74, Mollo 70)
**Nice 0** Att: 24,358

**Sochaux 1** (Privat 90+4)
**Nancy 2** (Moukandjo pen 7, Zitte 40) Att: 12,912

**Toulouse 0**
**Evian TG 0** Att: 11,011

Sunday, March 3
**Brest 1** (Chafni 8)
**Lyon 1** (Makonda og 53) Att: 11,924

**Lille 2** (Rodelin 59, Kalou 72)
**Bordeaux 1** (Plasil pen 31) Att: 40,409

**Marseille 2** (Jarjat og 81, Gignac 82)
**Troyes 1** (Marcos 70) Att: 32,016

GEORGIA

## Win for new boss

Reigning league champions Zestafoni beat cup holders Dila Gori on penalties after a goalless draw to claim their second Georgian Super Cup. Tornike Gorgiashvili scored the decisive spot-kick after Roin Kvaskhvadze had saved from Leonardo Ramos.

"I was happy with our victory, but that does not mean we should forget the problems that were evident in our game," said Zestafoni coach Kakha Kacharava, who took over in December.

HOLLAND

## Teenager's trio

Nineteen-year-old striker Jurgen Locadia scored a hat-trick as PSV Eindhoven beat PEC Zwolle 3-0 to reach the Dutch Cup Final. The holders will now meet AZ Alkmaar, who beat Ajax by the same score in the other semi-final, in Rotterdam on May 9.

Jozy Altidore's 24th goal of the campaign, in AZ's 2-1 loss at RKC Waalwijk, broke Clint Dempsey's record for the most goals scored by an American in a European club season.

Making an impact...Locadia (top)

**74,244** the attendance at the German second division game between Hertha Berlin and Union Berlin

### FRANCE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSG | 27 | 16 | 6 | 5 | 49 | 17 | 54 |
| Lyon | 27 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 47 | 26 | 52 |
| Marseille | 27 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 34 | 32 | 49 |
| Saint-Etienne | 27 | 13 | 8 | 6 | 44 | 19 | 47 |
| Nice | 27 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 39 | 32 | 45 |
| Montpellier | 27 | 13 | 5 | 9 | 43 | 32 | 44 |
| Lille | 27 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 37 | 27 | 43 |
| Rennes | 27 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 39 | 36 | 41 |
| Lorient | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 43 | 43 | 40 |
| Bordeaux | 27 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 27 | 24 | 38 |
| Valenciennes | 27 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 35 | 37 | 35 |
| Toulouse | 27 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 32 | 32 | 34 |
| Bastia | 27 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 30 | 51 | 30 |
| AC Ajaccio[1] | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 29 | 37 | 29 |
| Brest | 27 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 28 | 37 | 29 |
| Reims | 27 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 23 | 31 | 27 |
| Sochaux | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 28 | 40 | 27 |
| Evian TG | 27 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 25 | 39 | 24 |
| Nancy | 27 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 24 | 45 | 21 |
| Troyes | 27 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 29 | 48 | 20 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

*[1]2pts deducted for fan hooliganism during a 2011-12 league game*

**Leading scorers**

22 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain)
15 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Saint-Etienne)
12 Dario Cvitanich (Nice)
12 Bafetimbi Gomis (Lyon)

### FRENCH CUP

**Last 16**

**Feb 26:** Evian TG 3 Le Havre 1; Saint-Etienne 3 Lille 2; Sochaux 1 Troyes 2.
**Feb 27:** Lorient 3 Brest 0; Paris Saint-Germain 2 Marseille 0; Raon-l'Etape 2 Bordeaux 2 (aet, Bordeaux 5-3 on pens); Venissieux Minguettes 0 Nancy 2 (aet).
**Feb 28:** Lens 2 Epinal 0.

## GERMANY

**Saturday, February 9**

**Bayern Munich 4** (Alaba pen 19, 51, Schweinsteiger 32, Gomez 63)
**Schalke 0** Att: 71,000

**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Lewandowski 17)
**Hamburg 4** (Rudnevs 18, 62, Son 26, 89)
Att: 80,645

**Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
**Nuremberg 0** Att: 45,400

**Greuther Furth 0**
**Wolfsburg 1** (Dost 23) Att: 15,045

**Hanover 1** (Diouf 8)
**Hoffenheim 0** Att: 35,200

**Monchengladbach 3** (Stranzl 44, De Jong 58, Herrmann 86)
**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Sam 52, Kiessling 60, Schurrle 64) Att: 46,010

**Stuttgart 1** (Traore 50)
**Werder Bremen 4** (Ekici 34, 74, Hunt 61, De Bruyne 90+2) Att: 41,200

**Sunday, February 10**

**Augsburg 1** (Molders 57)
**Mainz 1** (Szalai 43) Att: 25,541

**Freiburg 1** (Krmas 87)
**Fortuna Dusseldorf 0** Att: 21,200

**Friday, February 15**

**Wolfsburg 0**
**Bayern Munich 2** (Mandzukic 36, Robben 90+2) Att: 30,000

**Saturday, February 16**

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Kiessling 26, Bender 75)
**Augsburg 1** (Molders 89) Att: 22,784

**Borussia Dortmund 3** (Reus 8, 10, 65)
**Eintracht Frankfurt 0** Att: 80,500

**Fortuna Dusseldorf 1** (Bellinghausen 18)
**Greuther Furth 0** Att: 37,378

**Hamburg 1** (Van der Vaart 24)
**Monchengladbach 0** Att: 54,558

**Mainz 2** (Ivanschitz 27, Pospech 63)
**Schalke 2** (Michel Bastos 41, 82) Att: 34,000

**Werder Bremen 2** (Petersen 39, 64)
**Freiburg 3** (Kruse 36, Caligiuri pen 55, Ginter 71) Att: 38,498

**Sunday, February 17**

**Hoffenheim 0**
**Stuttgart 1** (Harnik 3) Att: 28,750

**Nuremberg 2** (Klose 53, Polter 90+2)
**Hanover 2** (Huszti 41, Ya Konan 68) Att: 36,101

**Friday, February 22**

**Freiburg 0**
**Eintracht Frankfurt 0** Att: 23,400

**Saturday, February 23**

**Augsburg 2** (Ji 45, Molders 79)
**Hoffenheim 1** (De Camargo 90+2) Att: 28,211

**Bayern Munich 6** (Robben 25, Javi Martinez 29, Gebre Selassie og 49, Gomez 51, 89, Ribery 86)
**Werder Bremen 1** (De Bruyne 58) Att: 71,000

**Hanover 5** (Diouf 7, Huszti pen 39, Ya Konan 45, 68, Abdellaoue 85)
**Hamburg 1** (Van der Vaart pen 13) Att: 49,000

**Mainz 1** (Zimling 5)
**Wolfsburg 1** (Naldo 15) Att: 27,175

**Schalke 2** (Matip 29, 81)
**Fortuna Dusseldorf 1** (Bellinghausen 56) Att: 61,673

**Stuttgart 1** (Traore 51)
**Nuremberg 1** (Feulner 77) Att: 46,570

**Sunday, February 24**

**Greuther Furth 0**
**Bayer Leverkusen 0** Att: 14,635

**Monchengladbach 1** (Younes 67)
**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Gotze pen 31) Att: 54,010

**Friday, March 1**

**Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
**Monchengladbach 1** (De Jong 22) Att: 51,500

**Saturday, March 2**

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Kiessling pen 82, Bender 86)
**Stuttgart 1** (Ibisevic pen 12) Att: 27,058

**Borussia Dortmund 3** (Lewandowski 8, 21, Schieber 72)
**Hanover 1** (Abdellaoue 40) Att: 80,645

**Hamburg 1** (Beister 21)
**Greuther Furth 1** (Djurdjic 14) Att: 47,206

**Nuremberg 1** (Simons pen 33)
**Freiburg 1** (Schmid 83) Att: 38,188

**Werder Bremen 0**
**Augsburg 1** (Werner 29) Att: 39,211

**Wolfsburg 1** (Olic 50)
**Schalke 4** (Draxler 33, 63, Farfan 79, Huntelaar 86) Att: 29,326

**Sunday, March 3**

**Fortuna Dusseldorf 1** (Svensson og 6)
**Mainz 1** (Klasnic 41) Att: 40,226

**Hoffenheim 0**
**Bayern Munich 1** (Gomez 38) Att: 30,150

### GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern | 24 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 64 | 8 | 63 |
| Dortmund | 24 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 54 | 28 | 46 |
| Leverkusen | 24 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 45 | 31 | 45 |
| Eintracht | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 38 | 35 | 38 |
| Freiburg | 24 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 30 | 23 | 36 |
| Schalke | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 41 | 39 | 36 |
| Hamburg | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 29 | 33 | 35 |
| Mainz | 24 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 32 | 29 | 34 |
| M'gladbach | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 33 | 34 | 34 |
| Hanover | 24 | 10 | 3 | 11 | 47 | 45 | 33 |
| Stuttgart | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 26 | 42 | 29 |
| Fortuna | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 29 | 32 | 28 |
| Nuremberg | 24 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 24 | 31 | 28 |
| Werder | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 39 | 48 | 28 |
| Wolfsburg | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 24 | 37 | 27 |
| Augsburg | 24 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 21 | 36 | 21 |
| Hoffenheim | 24 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 27 | 49 | 16 |
| Greuther Furth | 24 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 37 | 14 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated. 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

**Leading scorers**

16 Stefan Kiessling (Bayer Leverkusen)
16 Robert Lewandowski (Borussia Dortmund)
15 Mario Mandzukic (Bayern Munich)
12 Alexander Meier (Eintracht Frankfurt)
12 Adam Szalai (Mainz)

### GERMAN CUP

**Quarter-finals**

**Feb 26:** Kickers Offenbach 1 Wolfsburg 2; Mainz 2 Freiburg 3 (aet).
**Feb 27:** Bayern Munich 1 Borussia Dortmund 0; Stuttgart 2 Bochum 0.

## GREECE

**Feb 9:** Atromitos 0 Veria 0; PAOK 3 OFI 1; Asteras 0 Olympiakos 1.
**Feb 10:** Panionios 0 Giannina 1; Kerkyra 0 AEK 1; Panthrakikos 3 Levadiakos 0; Panathinaikos 0 Xanthi 1.
**Feb 11:** Platanias 2 Aris 0.
**Feb 16:** Kerkyra 2 Panionios 1; Giannina 0 Panthrakikos 0; AEK 0 PAOK 0.
**Feb 17:** Levadiakos 0 Atromitos 0; Xanthi 0 Olympiakos 2; Veria 1 Asteras 2; Aris 1 Panathinaikos 0.
**Feb 18:** OFI 1 Platanias 3.
**Feb 23:** Xanthi 0 Veria 2; PAOK 3 Kerkyra 1; Panathinaikos 3 OFI 1.
**Feb 24:** Asteras 1 Levadiakos 0; Atromitos 0 Giannina 0; Panionios 2 Panthrakikos 0; Platanias 2 AEK 1; Olympiakos 2 Aris 1.
**Mar 2:** Kerkyra 2 Platanias 1; Panthrakikos 0 Atromitos 1; OFI 0 Olympiakos 4.
**Mar 3:** Levadiakos 1 Xanthi 4; PAOK 4 Panionios 2; Giannina 1 Asteras 2; AEK 0 Panathinaikos 2.
**Mar 4:** Veria 3 Aris 1.

### GREECE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Olympiakos | 24 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 53 | 14 | 63 |
| Asteras | 24 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 34 | 16 | 47 |
| PAOK | 24 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 37 | 18 | 46 |
| Atromitos | 24 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 41 |
| Panathinaikos[1] | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 27 | 24 | 32 |
| Giannina | 24 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 21 | 20 | 32 |
| Xanthi | 24 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 22 | 31 |
| Levadiakos | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 26 | 29 |
| Panionios | 24 | 9 | 1 | 14 | 27 | 34 | 28 |
| Platanias | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 23 | 30 | 27 |
| OFI | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 26 | 37 | 26 |
| AEK | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | 26 |
| Veria | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 20 | 28 | 26 |
| Panthrakikos | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 22 | 28 | 26 |
| Aris | 24 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 22 | 37 | 22 |
| Kerkyra | 24 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 32 | 20 |

30-round season (15x2); teams placed 2nd to 5th will enter play-offs for Greece's 2nd Champions League spot, bottom 2 will be relegated

*[1]2pts deducted for fan violence during the 2011-12 home league game against Olympiakos*

## HOLLAND

**Feb 9:** Den Haag 2 NAC 1; Groningen 2 RKC 1; Heracles 4 Willem II 1; Heerenveen 2 VVV 2; Vitesse 2 PSV 2.
**Feb 10:** Utrecht 0 NEC 3; Ajax 1 Roda JC 1; Feyenoord 3 AZ 1; Zwolle 1 Twente 1.
**Feb 15:** NEC 1 VVV 2.
**Feb 16:** Twente 1 Willem II 1; NAC 1 Heracles 1; Roda JC 2 AZ 2; PSV 2 Utrecht 1.
**Feb 17:** Vitesse 2 Groningen 0; Zwolle 3 Feyenoord 2; Den Haag 2 Heerenveen 1; RKC 0 Ajax 2.
**Feb 22:** Willem II 2 NEC 3.
**Feb 23:** Heracles 3 Vitesse 5; Groningen 1 Zwolle 0; VVV 1 RKC 0; Heerenveen 2 Twente 1.
**Feb 24:** Feyenoord 2 PSV 1; Utrecht 4 Roda JC 0; Ajax 1 Den Haag 1; AZ 0 NAC 1.
**Mar 1:** Vitesse 2 Utrecht 0.
**Mar 2:** NAC 1 Heerenveen 2; Zwolle 2 Willem II 0; PSV 2 VVV 0; Twente 0 Ajax 2.
**Mar 3:** NEC 0 Feyenoord 3; RKC 2 AZ 1; Roda JC 4 Groningen 1; Den Haag 3 Heracles 1.

### HOLLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSV | 25 | 17 | 2 | 6 | 80 | 27 | 53 |
| Ajax | 25 | 14 | 9 | 2 | 56 | 25 | 51 |
| Feyenoord | 25 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 50 | 32 | 50 |
| Vitesse | 25 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 50 | 31 | 48 |
| Twente | 25 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 40 | 24 | 44 |
| Utrecht | 25 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 38 | 29 | 42 |
| NEC | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 35 | 41 | 36 |
| Den Haag | 25 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 41 | 43 | 35 |
| Heerenveen | 25 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 36 | 46 | 29 |
| Groningen | 25 | 8 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 39 | 29 |
| Heracles | 25 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 49 | 53 | 28 |
| NAC | 25 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 27 | 42 | 27 |
| RKC | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 33 | 26 |
| Zwolle | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 27 | 38 | 26 |
| AZ | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 35 | 43 | 25 |
| Roda JC | 25 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 36 | 50 | 25 |
| VVV | 25 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 28 | 51 | 22 |
| Willem II | 25 | 2 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 55 | 14 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated. 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ISRAEL

## Late comeback

After going 2-1 behind to a 90th-minute goal away to Bnei Yehuda, Maccabi Tel-Aviv scored twice in injury time to win 3-2.

Moshe Lugasi, who scored Maccabi's winner nine minutes into added time, said of his dramatic goal: "There was no one to pass to, so I shot."

ITALY

## Totti is second best

Roma's Francesco Totti became the joint-second all-time top scorer in Serie A, scoring his 225th goal in the 3-1 win over Genoa. Totti equalled the mark set by Gunnar Nordahl and now wants to beat Silvio Piola's record of 274.

Javier Zanetti made his 593rd Serie A appearance in Internazionale's 3-1 win against Chievo, taking him into second place in the Italian top-flight's all-time list behind Paolo Maldini, who played 647 games.

KAZAKHSTAN

## Extra-time winner

Shakhter Karagandy beat Astana 3-2 in the Super Cup with Zhambyl Kukeyev's extra-time winner.

Still going strong...Totti celebrates his goal against Genoa

## ITALY

**Saturday, February 9**
**Juventus 2** (Vucinic 20, Matri 41)
**Fiorentina 0** Att: 38,551

**Lazio 1** (Floccari 11)
**Napoli 1** (Campagnaro 87) Att: 38,594

**Sunday, February 10**
**Atalanta 0**
**Catania 0** Att: 12,277

**Bologna 1** (Kone 41)
**Siena 1** (Emeghara 33) Att: 20,968

**Cagliari 1** (Ibarbo 45)
**Milan 1** (Balotelli pen 82) Att: 16,000

**Internazionale 3** (Cassano 2, Ranocchia 26, Milito 50)
**Chievo 1** (Rigoni 21) Att: 37,886

**Palermo 1** (Fabbrini 80)
**Pescara 1** (Bjarnason 73) Att: 13,316

**Parma 0**
**Genoa 0** Att: 10,944

**Sampdoria 3** (Estigarribia 56, Sansone 73, Icardi 77)
**Roma 1** (Lamela 75) Att: 22,822

**Udinese 1** (Pereyra 7)
**Torino 0** Att: 17,770

**Friday, February 15**
**Milan 2** (Paletta og 39, Balotelli 77)
**Parma 1** (Sansone 90+2) Att: 34,077

**Saturday, February 16**
**Chievo 1** (Thereau pen 55)
**Palermo 1** (Formica 5) Att: 8,000

**Roma 1** (Totti 58)
**Juventus 0** Att: 54,981

**Sunday, February 17**
**Catania 1** (Almiron 42)
**Bologna 0** Att: 11,891

**Fiorentina 4** (Ljajic 13, 65, Jovetic 33, 55)
**Internazionale 1** (Cassano 87) Att: 26,982

**Genoa 1** (Kucka 33)
**Udinese 0** Att: 18,355

**Napoli 0**
**Sampdoria 0** Att: 41,734

**Pescara 0**
**Cagliari 2** (Sau 53, 61) Att: 11,023

**Torino 2** (Cerci 42, Birsa 87)
**Atalanta 1** (Denis pen 75) Att: 11,585

**Monday, February 18**
**Siena 3** (Emeghara 6, 61, Rosina 23)
**Lazio 0** Att: 8,679

**Saturday, February 23**
**Palermo 0**
**Genoa 0** Att: 18,995

**Sunday, February 24**
**Atalanta 2** (Livaja 8, 44)
**Roma 3** (Marquinhos 12, Pjanic 34, Torosidis 72) Att: 12,160

**Cagliari 4** (Sau pen 37, Conti 75, 90+5, Pinilla pen 87)
**Torino 3** (Cerci 47, Stevanovic 54, Bianchi pen 90+2)
*Match played behind closed doors*

**Internazionale 1** (Schelotto 72)
**Milan 1** (El Shaarawy 21) Att: 79,341

**Juventus 3** (Lichtsteiner 30, Giovinco 74, Pogba 89)
**Siena 0** Att: 38,461

**Parma 1** (Amauri 87)
**Catania 2** (Lodi 5, Keko 44) Att: 10,960

**Sampdoria 2** (Poli 33, Eder 83)
**Chievo 0** Att: 21,099

**Monday, February 25**
**Lazio 2** (Radu 29, Lulic 35)
**Pescara 0** Att: 26,613

**Udinese 0**
**Napoli 0** Att: 16,000

**Tuesday, February 26**
**Bologna 2** (Motta 58, Christodoulopoulos 84)
**Fiorentina 1** (Ljajic 27) Att: 17,890

**Friday, March 1**
**Napoli 1** (Inler 44)
**Juventus 1** (Chiellini 10) Att: 58,143

**Saturday, March 2**
**Milan 3** (Pazzini 40, 60, Boateng 44)
**Lazio 0** Att: 47,421

**Sunday, March 3**
**Bologna 3** (Taider 5, Diamanti 18, Pasquato 90+2)
**Cagliari 0** Att: 18,174

**Catania 2** (Bergessio 7, Marchese 19)
**Internazionale 3** (Alvarez 52, Palacio 70, 90+2) Att: 19,452

**Fiorentina 2** (Pasqual 4, Larrondo 78)
**Chievo 1** (Cofie 38) Att: 22,071

**Pescara 0**
**Udinese 1** (Di Natale 8) Att: 8,714

**Roma 3** (Totti pen 16, Romagnoli 58, Perrotta 88)
**Genoa 1** (Borriello pen 42) Att: 35,568

**Sampdoria 1** (Icardi 58)
**Parma 0** Att: 22,489

**Siena 0**
**Atalanta 2** (Bonaventura 3, 68) Att: 8,155

**Torino 0**
**Palermo 0** Att: 13,806

### ITALY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 27 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 54 | 18 | 59 |
| Napoli | 27 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 47 | 22 | 53 |
| Milan | 27 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 48 | 32 | 48 |
| Inter | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 44 | 36 | 47 |
| Lazio | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 37 | 32 | 47 |
| Fiorentina | 27 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 48 | 33 | 45 |
| Roma | 27 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 57 | 48 | 43 |
| Catania | 27 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 36 | 34 | 42 |
| Udinese | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 36 | 34 | 40 |
| Sampdoria[1] | 27 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 34 | 30 | 35 |
| Bologna | 27 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 38 | 36 | 32 |
| Torino[1] | 27 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Parma | 27 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 32 | 36 | 32 |
| Cagliari | 27 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 32 | 47 | 31 |
| Atalanta[2] | 27 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 26 | 38 | 30 |
| Chievo | 27 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 44 | 29 |
| Genoa | 27 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 27 | 40 | 26 |
| Siena[3] | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 27 | 39 | 21 |
| Palermo | 27 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 22 | 39 | 21 |
| Pescara | 27 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 20 | 54 | 21 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated
*[1]1pt deducted [2]2pts deducted [3]6pts deducted – all for involvement in match-fixing scandal*

**Leading scorers**
18 Edinson Cavani (Napoli)
16 Stephan El Shaarawy (Milan)
15 Antonio Di Natale (Udinese)
12 Giampaolo Pazzini (Milan)

## POLAND

**Feb 22:** Zaglebie 3 Pogon 0; Polonia 1 Lechia 1.
**Feb 23:** Podbeskidzie 4 Jagiellonia 0; Slask 2 Widzew 1; Korona 3 Legia 2.
**Feb 24:** Belchatow 0 Wisla 0; Ruch 0 Lech 4.
**Feb 25:** Gornik 1 Piast 0.
**Mar 1:** Lechia 1 Pogon 1; Lech 0 Polonia 1.
**Mar 2:** Ruch 3 Widzew 0; Piast 1 Zaglebie 1; Legia 0 Belchatow 0.
**Mar 3:** Korona 1 Slask 1; Gornik 1 Jagiellonia 2.
**Mar 4:** Wisla 0 Podbeskidzie 0.

### POLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legia | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 34 | 17 | 34 |
| Polonia | 17 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 29 | 14 | 32 |
| Lech | 17 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 15 | 32 |
| Gornik | 17 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 25 | 13 | 31 |
| Slask | 17 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 27 | 22 | 30 |
| Lechia | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 20 | 25 |
| Piast | 17 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 22 | 26 | 23 |
| Zaglebie[1] | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 18 | 22 |
| Jagiellonia | 17 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 19 | 22 | 22 |
| Pogon | 17 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 17 | 20 | 22 |
| Widzew | 17 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 24 | 21 |
| Korona | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 21 | 20 |
| Wisla | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 22 | 20 |
| Ruch | 17 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 18 |
| Podbeskidzie | 17 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 20 | 29 | 10 |
| Belchatow | 17 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 27 | 8 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated
*[1]3pts deducted for match-fixing*

## PORTUGAL

**Feb 5:** Pacos de Ferreira 1 Estoril 0.
**Feb 9:** Estoril 2 Guimaraes 0.
**Feb 10:** Academica 1 Rio Ave 2; Sporting 0 Maritimo 1; Moreirense 3 Beira Mar 0; Setubal 1 Gil Vicente 0; Nacional 2 Benfica 2; Porto 1 Olhanense 1.

### RANKINGS ON MAR 4

| POS | | TEAM | GOALS | FACTOR | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Lionel Messi | Barcelona (Spa) | 38 | 2 | 76 |
| 2 | Cristiano Ronaldo | Real Madrid (Spa) | 24 | 2 | 48 |
| 3 | Jackson Martinez | Porto (Por) | 22 | 2 | 44 |
| 4 | Radamel Falcao | Atletico Madrid (Spa) | 21 | 2 | 42 |
| | Luis Suarez | Liverpool (Eng) | 21 | 2 | 42 |
| 6 | Robin Van Persie | Manchester United (Eng) | 19 | 2 | 38 |
| 7 | Philipp Hosiner | Austria Vienna (Aut) | 25 | 1.5 | 37.5 |
| 8 | Edinson Cavani | Napoli (Ita) | 18 | 2 | 36 |
| 9 | Arturas Rimkevicius | Siauliai (Lit) | 35 | 1 | 35 |
| 10 | Wilfried Bony | Vitesse Arnhem (Hol) | 23 | 1.5 | 34.5 |
| 11 | Zlatan Ibrahimovic | Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) | 22 | 1.5 | 33 |
| 12 | Gareth Bale | Tottenham (Eng) | 16 | 2 | 32 |
| | Stephan El Shaarawy | Milan (Ita) | 16 | 2 | 32 |
| | Stefan Kiessling | Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) | 16 | 2 | 32 |
| | Robert Lewandowski | Borussia Dortmund (Ger) | 16 | 2 | 32 |
| 16 | Eliran Atar | Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) | 21 | 1.5 | 31.5 |

Overjoyed...Steaua beat Ajax

ROMANIA

## Steaua make history

Steaua Bucharest became the first team ever to win a Europa League game on penalties, overcoming Ajax after the two sides drew 2-2 on aggregate in the first knockout round.

Steaua also became only the second side to go through in the competition with a two-goal deficit from the first leg, following in the footsteps of Fulham who came from 3-1 down to win 4-1 at home to Juventus in 2010.

SCOTLAND

## Rangers keep crowns

A commission appointed by the Scottish Premier League to investigate financial irregularities at Rangers ruled that the club should not be stripped of the five titles that it won during the period under investigation. The company that formerly ran the football club were fined £250,000.

SPAIN

## Falcao most games

Atletico Madrid's Radamel Falcao set a new record with his 31st Europa League appearance as the holders went out of the competition 2-1 on aggregate to Rubin Kazan of Russia. The Colombian striker extended his own record as the competition's overall top scorer with his 30th goal.

Atletico's 2-0 defeat in the home leg ended a 21-match winning streak at the Vicente Calderon that stretched back to May last year.

CLUB FOOTBALL

Feb 11: Braga 2 Pacos de Ferreira 3.
Feb 15: Beira Mar 0 Porto 2.
Feb 16: Gil Vicente 2 Sporting 3.
Feb 17: Olhanense 0 Setubal 1; Pacos de Ferreira 1 Nacional 1; Maritimo 2 Estoril 1; Guimaraes 1 Moreirense 0; Benfica 1 Academica 0.
Feb 18: Rio Ave 1 Braga 1.
Feb 22: Estoril 3 Sporting 1.
Feb 23: Setubal 1 Beira Mar 0; Braga 3 Guimaraes 2; Porto 2 Rio Ave 1.
Feb 24: Nacional 3 Olhanense 1; Moreirense 0 Gil Vicente 0; Benfica 3 Pacos de Ferreira 0.
Feb 25: Academica 2 Maritimo 3.
Mar 2: Pacos de Ferreira 2 Setubal 0; Sporting 0 Porto 0.
Mar 3: Gil Vicente 1 Nacional 2; Beira Mar 0 Benfica 1; Rio Ave 0 Estoril 2; Maritimo 1 Moreirense 1.
Mar 4: Guimaraes 2 Academica 0; Olhanense 0 Braga 1.

**PORTUGAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benfica | 21 | 17 | 4 | 0 | 51 | 14 | 55 |
| Porto | 21 | 16 | 5 | 0 | 49 | 10 | 53 |
| P de Ferreira | 21 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 29 | 18 | 38 |
| Braga | 21 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 45 | 30 | 37 |
| Rio Ave | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 25 | 28 | 29 |
| Maritimo | 21 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 23 | 31 | 29 |
| Estoril | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 32 | 29 | 28 |
| Guimaraes | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 32 | 27 |
| Nacional | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 31 | 35 | 26 |
| Sporting | 21 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 20 | 25 | 23 |
| Setubal | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 22 | 38 | 23 |
| Academica | 21 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 27 | 33 | 20 |
| Gil Vicente | 21 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 21 | 33 | 19 |
| Olhanense | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 32 | 17 |
| Moreirense | 21 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 35 | 16 |
| Beira Mar | 21 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 39 | 15 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

## ROMANIA

Feb 22: Gaz Metan 3 Gloria 1.
Feb 23: Concordia 1 Turnu Severin 1; Ceahlaul 0 Pandurii 1; Iasi 0 Rapid 1.
Feb 24: Otelul 0 Petrolul 1; Dinamo 2 Brasov 1.
Feb 25: Astra 2 Viitorul 0; Universitatea 0 Steaua 1; Vaslui 0 CFR 0.
Mar 1: Gloria 0 Ceahlaul 0.
Mar 2: CFR 0 Otelul 1; Steaua 3 Gaz Metan 0; Viitorul 1 Universitatea 1.
Mar 3: Petrolul 2 Iasi 1; Rapid 0 Dinamo 1.
Mar 4: Brasov 3 Concordia 2; Pandurii 2 Vaslui 1; Turnu Severin 0 Astra 0.

**ROMANIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steaua | 21 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 50 | 15 | 53 |
| Astra | 21 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 42 | 21 | 41 |
| Pandurii | 21 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 33 | 26 | 41 |
| Petrolul | 21 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 30 | 18 | 37 |
| Vaslui | 21 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 20 | 36 |
| Dinamo | 21 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 33 | 24 | 36 |
| CFR | 21 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 37 | 25 | 33 |
| Brasov | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 30 | 31 | 29 |
| Rapid | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 23 | 29 |
| Concordia | 21 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 21 | 32 | 25 |
| Gaz Metan | 21 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 22 | 31 | 24 |
| Otelul[1] | 21 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 28 | 23 |
| Viitorul | 21 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 23 | 28 | 22 |
| Ceahlaul | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 36 | 20 |
| Iasi | 21 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 19 | 28 | 18 |
| Universitatea | 21 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 19 | 36 | 18 |
| Turnu Severin | 21 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 19 | 31 | 14 |
| Gloria | 21 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 14 | 39 | 13 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated
*[1]2pts deducted because of outstanding debts*

Leading scorers
18 Raul Rusescu (Steaua)
11 Marius Niculae (Vaslui)
9 Marius Alexe (Dinamo)
9 Viorel Dinu (Universitatea)
9 Kehinde Fatai (Astra)
8 Victoras Astafei (Gaz Metan)

## SCOTLAND

Regular season
Feb 8: Dundee 0 Ross County 2.
Feb 9: Inverness 1 Celtic 3; Aberdeen 0 St Mirren 0; Dundee United 3 Hearts 1; Kilmarnock 2 Motherwell 0.
Feb 11: Hibernian 1 St Johnstone 3.
Feb 13: Inverness 1 Kilmarnock 1.
Feb 15: Aberdeen 1 Dundee 0.
Feb 16: Celtic 6 Dundee United 2; Hearts 0 Kilmarnock 3; Motherwell 3 Inverness 0; Ross County 1 St Johnstone 0; St Mirren 0 Hibernian 1.
Feb 19: St Johnstone 1 Celtic 1; Motherwell 0 Dundee United 1.
Feb 23: Hearts 2 Inverness 3; Kilmarnock 1 Aberdeen 1; Ross County 3 Motherwell 0; St Johnstone 1 St Mirren 0.
Feb 24: Celtic 5 Dundee 0; Dundee United 2 Hibernian 2.
Feb 26: Aberdeen 0 Ross County 1.
Feb 27: Hibernian 2 Kilmarnock 2; Inverness 0 Dundee United 0; Motherwell 2 Celtic 1; St Mirren 2 Hearts 0; Dundee 2 St Johnstone 2.
Mar 2: Ross County 0 Inverness 0; Hearts 1 Motherwell 2.

**SCOTLAND – REGULAR**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 29 | 19 | 5 | 5 | 68 | 23 | 62 |
| Motherwell | 29 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 47 | 40 | 46 |
| Inverness | 29 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 53 | 46 | 43 |
| Ross County | 29 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 36 | 34 | 42 |
| St Johnstone | 29 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 36 | 35 | 41 |
| Hibernian | 29 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 38 | 38 | 39 |
| Kilmarnock | 29 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 44 | 38 | 38 |
| Dundee Utd | 29 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 45 | 50 | 38 |
| Aberdeen | 29 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 33 | 36 | 37 |
| St Mirren | 28 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 35 | 45 | 32 |
| Hearts | 29 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 28 | 41 | 30 |
| Dundee | 28 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 16 | 53 | 15 |

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down)

Leading scorers
19 Leigh Griffiths (Hibernian)
19 Michael Higdon (Motherwell)
18 Billy McKay (Inverness)
16 Niall McGinn (Aberdeen)
14 Gary Hooper (Celtic)
13 Johnny Russell (Dundee United)

## SPAIN

Saturday, February 9
**Celta Vigo 0**
**Valencia 1** (Haedo Valdez 90+3) Att: 18,710

**Deportivo La Coruna 0**
**Granada 3** (Marchena og 45, Ighalo 51, Siqueira pen 90+5) Att: 27,300

**Levante 1** (Barkero pen 27)
**Malaga 2** (Isco pen 36, 47) Att: 14,700

**Mallorca 1** (Geromel 90+1)
**Osasuna 1** (Lolo 77) Att: 13,816

**Real Madrid 4** (Benzema 18, Cristiano Ronaldo 26, 46, 59)
**Sevilla 1** (Manu 87) Att: 65,000

Sunday, February 10
**Athletic Bilbao 0**
**Espanyol 4** (Moreno 28, Victor Sanchez 57, Stuani 58, Verdu 75) Att: 32,000

**Barcelona 6** (Sanchez 6, Messi 13, Villa 58, Tello 79, Iniesta 90, Pique 90+2)
**Getafe 1** (Alvaro 83) Att: 85,610

**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Lass 3, Leo Baptistao 32)
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Falcao 90+4) Att: 9,538

**Zaragoza 1** (Apono pen 90+1)
**Real Sociedad 2** (Griezmann 11, Agirretxe 32) Att: 25,840

Monday, February 11
**Betis 0**
**Valladolid 0** Att: 26,785

Friday, February 15
**Sevilla 3** (Rakitic 6, Medel 27, 40)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Riki 32) Att: 35,000

Saturday, February 16
**Getafe 3** (Colunga 10, Diego Castro 34, Fernandez 42)
**Celta Vigo 1** (Fernandez 20) Att: 9,100

**Granada 1** (Ighalo 26)
**Barcelona 2** (Messi 50, 73) Att: 22,000

**Malaga 1** (Saviola 18)
**Athletic Bilbao 0** Att: 29,900

**Osasuna 1** (Kike Sola 4)
**Zaragoza 0** Att: 17,322

Sunday, February 17
**Espanyol 1** (Sergio Garcia 7)
**Betis 0** Att: 20,410

**Real Madrid 2** (Morata 3, Sergio Ramos 12)
**Rayo Vallecano 0** Att: 63,000

**Real Sociedad 1** (Vela pen 18)
**Levante 1** (Michel pen 29) Att: 23,743

**Valencia 2** (Ricardo Costa 60, Soldado 81)
**Mallorca 0** Att: 31,200

**Valladolid 0**
**Atletico Madrid 3** (Falcao 11, Diego Costa 53, Rodriguez 90) Att: 20,007

Friday, February 22
**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Ibai Gomez 30)
**Real Sociedad 3** (Griezmann 34, Agirretxe 66, Vela 76) Att: 40,000

Saturday, February 23
**Barcelona 2** (Villa 52, Messi 60)
**Sevilla 1** (Botia 42) Att: 57,629

**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Riki 35)
**Real Madrid 2** (Kaka 73, Higuain 88) Att: 30,000

**Mallorca 1** (Dos Santos 24)
**Getafe 3** (Diego Castro pen 71, Colunga 82, 86) Att: 14,000

**Zaragoza 2** (Apono pen 5, Helder Postiga 32)
**Valencia 2** (Jonas 36, 69) Att: 18,000

Sunday, February 24
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Falcao pen 38)
**Espanyol 0** Att: 40,000

**Betis 3** (Jorge Molina 1, Mario 28, Pabon 45)
**Malaga 0** Att: 32,611

**Celta Vigo 2** (Iago Aspas 24, Bermejo 81)
**Granada 1** (Ighalo 28) Att: 18,000

**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Amat 72)
**Valladolid 2** (Amat og 71, Manucho 80) Att: 8,921

Monday, February 25
**Levante 0**
**Osasuna 2** (Shojaei 87, Kike Sola 90+4) Att: 10,553

Friday, March 1
**Getafe 2** (Colunga 21, Escudero 60)
**Zaragoza 0** Att: 7,200

Saturday, March 2
**Deportivo La Coruna 0**
**Rayo Vallecano 0** Att: 25,000

**Osasuna 0**
**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Susaeta 63) Att: 19,348

**Real Madrid 2** (Benzema 6, Sergio Ramos 82)
**Barcelona 1** (Messi 18) Att: 78,000

**Valencia 2** (Jonas 27, Soldado 45+3)
**Levante 2** (Iborra 16, Barkero 89) Att: 40,200

Sunday, March 3
**Espanyol 0**
**Valladolid 0** Att: 20,423

**Granada 1** (Nolito 9)
**Mallorca 2** (Alfaro 13, Hemed 90+3) Att: 22,524

**Malaga 0**
**Atletico Madrid 0** Att: 28,500

**Real Sociedad 3** (Vela 51, Inigo Martinez 56, Xabi Prieto pen 62)
**Betis 3** (Jorge Molina 30, Pabon 49, 66) Att: 22,162

Monday, March 4
**Sevilla 4** (Negredo 12, 29, 68, Medel 66)
**Celta Vigo 1** (Fernandez 40) Att: 27,000

**SPAIN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 26 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 83 | 30 | 68 |
| Atletico | 26 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 48 | 23 | 57 |
| Real Madrid | 26 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 64 | 24 | 55 |
| Malaga | 26 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 37 | 24 | 43 |
| Valencia | 26 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 38 | 39 | 42 |
| Sociedad | 26 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 44 | 34 | 41 |
| Betis | 26 | 12 | 4 | 10 | 37 | 38 | 40 |
| Getafe | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 37 | 44 | 38 |
| Rayo | 26 | 12 | 2 | 12 | 34 | 43 | 38 |
| Sevilla | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 38 | 38 | 35 |
| Levante | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 32 | 40 | 35 |
| Valladolid | 26 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 34 | 33 | 34 |
| Espanyol | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 35 | 32 |
| Athletic | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 31 | 50 | 29 |
| Osasuna | 26 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 22 | 28 | 28 |
| Granada | 26 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 25 | 38 | 26 |
| Zaragoza | 26 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 25 | 38 | 25 |
| Celta | 26 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 36 | 23 |
| Mallorca | 26 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 26 | 49 | 21 |
| Deportivo | 26 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 29 | 56 | 17 |

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Record breaker...Falcao (right)

BRAZIL

## Neymar sees red

Neymar was sent off for the fifth time in his career following an altercation with Ponte Preta defender Arthur as Santos lost the Paulista state match 3-1.

VENEZUELA

## Team bus attacked

Estudiantes de Merida winger Jesus Quintero underwent emergency eye surgery after his team's bus was attacked following an away game against Llaneros de Guarane.

The 18-year-old Quintero, whose side lost 3-1, suffered a cut around his eye as well as injuries to his lips and hands, but his club have said that he will not suffer any long-term damage.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

## Hoppers blow it again

Greenbay Hoppers, who had been runners-up in the league five times in the previous eight seasons but never champions, threw away the chance to win their first title.

Hoppers dropped seven points in their last four games to lose a three-point lead and hand the title to Old Road. They still had a chance on the last day of the season when they were away to Old Road, the defending champions, but despite dominating possession they could only manage a 1-1 draw.

Hoppers and Old Road both now qualify for the Caribbean Club Championship, while Celtic and Sea View Farm were relegated.

**Leading scorers**

38 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
24 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
21 Radamel Falcao (Atletico Madrid)
13 Alvaro Negredo (Sevilla)
13 Roberto Soldado (Valencia)

### SPANISH CUP

**Semi-finals**

*1st legs - Jan 30/31; 2nd legs - Feb 26/27*
Atletico Madrid v Sevilla 2-1, 2-2 (agg 4-3)
Real Madrid v Barcelona 1-1, 3-1 (agg 4-2)

## SWITZERLAND

**Feb 9:** Servette 0 Grasshopper 1; Young Boys 3 Lucerne 2.
**Feb 10:** Zurich 2 Lausanne 0; Basle 3 Sion 0.
**Feb 16:** Grasshopper 2 Young Boys 0; Sion 1 St Gallen 0.
**Feb 17:** Lausanne 1 Basle 2; Lucerne 1 Zurich 1; Thun 1 Servette 1.
**Feb 23:** Servette 1 Lausanne 0; Zurich 4 Young Boys 0.
**Feb 24:** St Gallen 4 Lucerne 0; Thun 4 Sion 0; Basle 0 Grasshopper 0.
**Mar 2:** Lucerne 0 Thun 0; Zurich 3 Sion 1.
**Mar 3:** Servette 1 Basle 2; Young Boys 2 St Gallen 0; Lausanne 0 Grasshopper 0.

**SWITZERLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grasshopper | 22 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 26 | 17 | 45 |
| Basle | 22 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 39 | 20 | 43 |
| St Gallen | 21 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 26 | 16 | 36 |
| Sion | 22 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 29 | 30 | 35 |
| Young Boys | 22 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 33 | 29 | 30 |
| Zurich | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 29 | 27 | 27 |
| Thun | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 24 | 29 | 23 |
| Lausanne | 22 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 25 | 22 |
| Lucerne | 22 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 32 | 20 |
| Servette | 22 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 35 | 15 |

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

## TURKEY

**Feb 9:** Istanbul BB 0 Akhisar 2; Genclerbirligi 0 Eskisehirspor 2; Elazigspor 1 Besiktas 3; Karabukspor 0 Bursaspor 3.
**Feb 10:** Sivasspor 2 Trabzonspor 0; Kayserispor 0 Orduspor 0; Mersin 0 Fenerbahce 1; Galatasaray 2 Antalyaspor 0.
**Feb 11:** Gaziantepspor 2 Kasimpasa 1.
**Feb 15:** Akhisar 1 Galatasaray 2.
**Feb 16:** Eskisehirspor 0 Kayserispor 3; Besiktas 1 Gaziantepspor 1; Antalyaspor 0 Karabukspor 0.
**Feb 17:** Genclerbirligi 3 Mersin 1; Orduspor 2 Istanbul BB 2; Bursaspor 1 Elazigspor 0; Trabzonspor 0 Fenerbahce 3.
**Feb 18:** Kasimpasa 1 Sivasspor 0.
**Feb 22:** Gaziantepspor 2 Bursaspor 1.
**Feb 23:** Istanbul BB 2 Eskisehirspor 2; Elazigspor 2 Antalyaspor 1; Sivasspor 0 Besiktas 1; Mersin 0 Trabzonspor 1.
**Feb 24:** Kayserispor 1 Genclerbirligi 0; Fenerbahce 3 Kasimpasa 1; Karabukspor 0 Akhisar 2.
**Feb 25:** Galatasaray 4 Orduspor 2.
**Mar 1:** Genclerbirligi 0 Istanbul BB 0.
**Mar 2:** Eskisehirspor 0 Galatasaray 0; Akhisar 0 Elazigspor 1; Orduspor 3 Karabukspor 2.
**Mar 3:** Besiktas 3 Fenerbahce 2; Kayserispor 2 Mersin 1; Bursaspor 1 Sivasspor 0; Antalyaspor 5 Gaziantepspor 2.
**Mar 4:** Kasimpasa 2 Trabzonspor 0.

**TURKEY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Galatasaray | 24 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 46 | 27 | 47 |
| Besiktas | 24 | 11 | 9 | 4 | 51 | 35 | 42 |
| Fenerbahce | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 39 | 28 | 40 |
| Bursaspor | 24 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 28 | 37 |
| Antalyaspor | 24 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 38 | 35 | 37 |
| Kasimpasa | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 26 | 36 |
| Kayserispor | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 33 | 33 | 35 |
| Eskisehirspor | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 38 | 29 | 34 |
| Genclerbirligi | 24 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 35 | 35 | 31 |
| Trabzonspor | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 26 | 29 | 30 |
| Orduspor | 24 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 29 | 30 | 29 |
| Sivasspor | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 31 | 29 |
| Karabukspor | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 30 | 40 | 29 |
| Istanbul BB | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 29 | 30 | 28 |
| Gaziantepspor | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 25 | 38 | 28 |
| Elazigspor | 24 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 35 | 27 |
| Akhisar | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 33 | 22 |
| Mersin | 24 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 24 | 35 | 20 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

## UKRAINE

**Mar 1:** Shakhtar 4 Volyn 1.
**Mar 2:** Illichivets 1 Metalurh Zaporizhya 0; Dnipro 3 Arsenal 0; Metalist 3 Metalurh Donetsk 2.
**Mar 3:** Zorya 2 Hoverla 1; Tavriya 0 Karpaty 2; Chornomorets 1 Vorskla 0; Dynamo 1 Kryvbas 1.

**UKRAINE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shakhtar | 19 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 56 | 10 | 54 |
| Dnipro | 19 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 34 | 13 | 41 |
| Metalist | 19 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 38 | 17 | 39 |
| Dynamo | 19 | 12 | 2 | 5 | 35 | 16 | 38 |
| Chornomorets | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 22 | 19 | 33 |
| Metalurh D | 19 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 25 | 26 |
| Illichivets | 19 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 21 | 17 | 25 |
| Zorya | 19 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 21 | 23 | 25 |
| Volyn | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 27 | 23 |
| Arsenal | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 29 | 23 |
| Karpaty | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 28 | 22 |
| Kryvbas | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 30 | 22 |
| Tavriya | 19 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 23 | 21 |
| Vorskla | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 23 | 20 |
| Hoverla | 19 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 19 | 41 | 11 |
| Metalurh Z | 19 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 5 | 47 | 3 |

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

# SOUTH AMERICA

## LIBERTADORES CUP

**Group 1**

*Feb 12*
**Nacional (Uru) 2** (Abreu 69, Alonso 90+2)
**Barcelona (Ecu) 2** (Diaz 18, Nahuelpan 26)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Osses (Chl)
*Sent off: Perlaza (Barcelona) 75min; Lembo (Nacional) 77min*

*Feb 13*
**Boca Juniors (Arg) 1** (Silva pen 23)
**Toluca (Mex) 2** (Esquivel 59, Benitez 73)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)

*Feb 19*
**Toluca 2** (Tejada 22, Benitez 52)
**Nacional 3** (Sanchez 47, 55, Alonso 57)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)

*Feb 27*
**Barcelona 1** (Arroyo pen 90+3)
**Boca Juniors 2** (Martinez 59, Perez 63)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Vuaden (Bra)

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nacional | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Toluca | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Boca | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Barcelona | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 |

**Group 2**

*Feb 14*
**Palmeiras (Bra) 2** (Henrique 40, Patrick Vieira 68)
**Sporting Cristal (Per) 1** (Lobaton pen 52)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)

*Feb 21*
**Tigre (Arg) 0**
**Libertad (Par) 2** (Aquino pen 54, Gonzalez 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Silvera (Uru)
*Sent off: Donatti (Tigre) 53min*

*Feb 28*
**Libertad 2** (Velazquez 11, Benitez 55)
**Palmeiras 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Soto (Ven)

*Feb 28*
**Sporting Cristal 2** (Sheput 30, Lobaton 58)
**Tigre 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
*Sent off: Albil (Tigre) 87min*

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Libertad | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Cristal | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Palmeiras | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Tigre | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

**Group 3**

*Feb 13*
**Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 2** (Jo 13, Rever 73)
**Sao Paulo (Bra) 1** (Aloisio 83)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Henrique (Bra)

*Feb 14*
**The Strongest (Bol) 2** (Chumacero 18, Melgar 84)
**Arsenal (Arg) 1** (Benedetto 49)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Arias (Par)
*Sent off: Perez 56min, Zelaya 78min (both Arsenal)*

*Feb 26*
**Arsenal 2** (Furch 2, Aguirre 41)
**Atletico Mineiro 5** (Bernard 8, 54, 59, Diego Tardelli 29, Jo 36)
**HT:** 2-3. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)

*Feb 28*
**Sao Paulo 2** (Osvaldo 43, Luis Fabiano 80)
**The Strongest 1** (Barrera 21)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mineiro | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| Sao Paulo | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| The Strongest | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Arsenal | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 0 |

**Group 4**

*Feb 12*
**Emelec (Ecu) 1** (Ferreyra og 50)
**Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
*Sent off: Tobio (Velez) 62min*

*Feb 13*
**Iquique (Chl) 1** (Villalobos 59)
**Penarol (Uru) 2** (Estoyanoff 5, Olivera 72)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)

*Feb 19*
**Penarol 1** (Olivera 68)
**Emelec 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Ricci (Bra)

*Feb 20*
**Velez Sarsfield 3** (Insua 25, Rescaldani 35, Puch og 69)
**Iquique 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

*Feb 26*
**Penarol 0**
**Velez Sarsfield 1** (Pratto 87)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)

*Feb 27*
**Iquique 2** (Ereros 15, Villalobos 22)
**Emelec 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
*Sent off: Achilier (Emelec) 79min*

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Velez | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| Penarol | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Iquique | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Emelec | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |

**Group 5**

*Feb 19*
**Millonarios (Col) 0**
**Tijuana (Mex) 1** (Ruiz 62)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Escalante (Ven)
*Sent off: Torres (Millonarios) 90+5min*

*Feb 20*
**San Jose (Bol) 1** (Saucedo 61)
**Corinthians (Bra) 1** (Guerrero 6)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)

*Feb 26*
**Tijuana 4** (Castillo 4, Aguilar 47, Corona 49, Martinez 74)
**San Jose 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Ponce (Ecu)

*Feb 27*
**Corinthians 2** (Guerrero 10, Alexandre Pato 49)
**Millonarios 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
*Sent off: Martinez (Millonarios) 77min*

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 6**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tijuana | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Corinthians | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| San Jose | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Millonarios | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

**Group 6**

*Feb 13*
**Garcilaso (Per) 1** (Bogado 76)
**Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 1** (Martinez Borja 15)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)

*Feb 14*
**Tolima (Col) 2** (Cardozo og 32, D Silva 59)
**Cerro Porteno (Par) 1** (Martinez 77)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)

ANGOLA

### Petro triumph

Petro Atletico won the Super Cup, beating CRD Libolo 2-1 on aggregate.

GABON

### Bitam set new best

US Bitam beat Desportivo Guadalupe from Sao Tome e Principe 17-1 on aggregate in the preliminary round to set a new record score for the CAF Confederation Cup. Their 12-1 second-leg victory was also the biggest winning margin in the 10 years of the second-tier African tournament.

CHINA

### Shenhua lose title

Shanghai Shenhua and Tianjin Teda both started the new Chinese Super League season with a six-point deduction after being involved in match fixing in 2003. Shenhua were also stripped of their league title for that year.

KUWAIT

### Qadsia's revenge

Al Qadsia gained revenge for their penalty shoot-out defeat at the hands of the same opponents in last year's Final as they beat Al Arabi 3-1 to win the Crown Prince Cup. Bader Al Mutawa (twice) and Mesaed Nada were on target as Qadsia won the competition for a seventh time.

Cup winners...Al Qadsia

SAUDI ARABIA

### Al Hilal are spot on

Al Hilal won the Crown Prince Cup Final, beating Al Nassr on penalties.

CLUB FOOTBALL

*Feb 21*
**Cerro Porteno 0**
**Garcilaso 1** (Ramua 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)

*Feb 21*
**Independiente Santa Fe 1** (Valencia 15)
**Tolima 1** (Andrade 5)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Velez (Col)

*Feb 26*
**Tolima 0**
**Garcilaso 1** (Salazar 90+1)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 6**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Garcilaso | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Tolima | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Santa Fe | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Cerro Porteno | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

Group 7

*Feb 12*
**Universidad de Chile (Chl) 2** (Ubilla 34, 76)
**Lara (Ven) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Ponce (Ecu)

*Feb 14*
**Newell's Old Boys (Arg) 3** (Scocco pen 70, Orzan 76, Rodriguez 90)
**Olimpia (Par) 1** (Bareiro 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Vuaden (Bra)

*Feb 19*
**Olimpia 3** (Salgueiro 2, Ortiz 9, Candia 48)
**Universidad de Chile 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
*Sent off: Magalhaes (Universidad) 70min*

*Feb 21*
**Lara 2** (Gomez 6, Fernandez 50)
**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Caceres 90+2)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Marques Ribeiro (Bra)

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 7**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Newell's | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Olimpia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Lara | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Univ de Chile | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

Group 8

*Feb 13*
**Caracas (Ven) 0**
**Fluminense (Bra) 1** (Fred 32)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Buitrago (Col)

*Feb 14*
**Gremio (Bra) 1** (Barcos pen 54)
**Huachipato (Chl) 2** (Falcone 17, B Rodriguez 51)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Abal (Arg)

*Feb 20*
**Fluminense 0**
**Gremio 3** (Bruno Vieira og 33, Andre Santos 55, Vargas 69)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Oliveira (Bra)

*Feb 20*
**Huachipato 1** (Aceval 64)
**Caracas 3** (Cure 13, Pena 45+2, 54)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)

*Feb 27*
**Huachipato 1** (B Rodriguez 45+1)
**Fluminense 2** (Wellington Nem 67, Wagner 76)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Laverni (Arg)

**LIBERTADORES CUP – GROUP 8**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fluminense | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Gremio | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Caracas | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Huachipato | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 |

*Group games to be played by Apr 19*

*Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round*

## ARGENTINA

### 1st tournament

Feb 13: Quilmes 0 Tigre 0.

**ARGENTINA – 1ST TOURNAMENT – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Velez (C) | 19 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 12 | 41 |
| Newell's | 19 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 23 | 11 | 36 |
| Belgrano | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 22 | 13 | 36 |
| Lanus | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 10 | 34 |
| Racing | 19 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 26 | 12 | 33 |
| Boca | 19 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 25 | 20 | 33 |
| Arsenal | 19 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 22 | 31 |
| River Plate | 19 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 28 | 16 | 29 |
| Estudiantes | 19 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 16 | 28 |
| Colon | 19 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 26 | 24 | 26 |
| San Lorenzo | 19 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 26 |
| All Boys | 19 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 27 | 21 |
| Rafaela | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 28 | 20 |
| Godoy Cruz | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 24 | 20 |
| Quilmes | 19 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 23 | 19 |
| Argentinos | 19 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 19 | 29 | 19 |
| San Martin | 19 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 21 | 27 | 17 |
| Independiente | 19 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 17 |
| Tigre | 19 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 16 | 27 | 13 |
| Union | 19 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 33 | 7 |

No relegation after 1st tournament

### 2nd tournament

Feb 8: Union 1 Arsenal 1; Argentinos 0 Velez 1.
Feb 9: All Boys 1 Godoy Cruz 1; Estudiantes 1 Tigre 3; San Martin 0 San Lorenzo 0; Boca 3 Quilmes 2.
Feb 10: Rafaela 3 Racing 0; Independiente 1 Newell's 3; Belgrano 1 River Plate 2.
Feb 11: Lanus 4 Colon 0.
Feb 15: Racing 2 Argentinos 0.
Feb 16: Godoy Cruz 2 Union 1; San Lorenzo 0 Belgrano 0; Colon 1 San Martin 1; Velez 0 Independiente 1.
Feb 17: Tigre 0 Boca 0; Quilmes 2 All Boys 1; Newell's 0 Lanus 3; River Plate 1 Estudiantes 0.
Feb 18: Arsenal 0 Rafaela 0.
Feb 22: Argentinos 1 Arsenal 2; Estudiantes 1 San Lorenzo 1.
Feb 23: Union 0 Quilmes 3; All Boys 2 Boca 0; Lanus 1 Velez 0.
Feb 24: Independiente 2 Racing 0; Rafaela 1 Godoy Cruz 2; Belgrano 2 Colon 1; River Plate 3 Tigre 2.
Feb 25: San Martin 1 Newell's 1.
Mar 1: Newell's 2 Belgrano 0; Quilmes 3 Rafaela 3.
Mar 2: Arsenal 1 Independiente 0; Colon 3 Estudiantes 3.
Mar 3: Godoy Cruz 0 Argentinos 0; Racing 0 Lanus 0; San Lorenzo 2 River Plate 0; Tigre 2 All Boys 1; Boca 1 Union 3.
Mar 4: Velez 3 San Martin 0.

**ARGENTINA – 2ND TOURNAMENT**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lanus | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 10 |
| River Plate | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| Godoy Cruz | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Arsenal | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Quilmes | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| Tigre | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Newell's | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Velez | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| San Lorenzo | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Independiente | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Rafaela | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| All Boys | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Union | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Belgrano | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Boca | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Racing | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| San Martin | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Estudiantes | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| Colon | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| Argentinos | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 |

19-round tournament (19x1); the 3 teams with the worst points-per-game average over the 3 most recent seasons will be relegated

# CONCACAF

## MEXICO

### Clausura

Regular season

Feb 8: Morelia 1 Leon 0.
Feb 9: Cruz Azul 1 Pumas 1; Queretaro 1 Jaguares 1; Monterrey 0 Guadalajara 1; Tijuana 1 America 2; San Luis 1 Puebla 3; Atlas 2 Atlante 1.
Feb 10: Toluca 1 Tigres 4; Santos 0 Pachuca 1.
Feb 15: Jaguares 2 Tijuana 0.
Feb 16: America 2 Toluca 2; Pachuca 2 Cruz Azul 1; Tigres 1 Santos 1; Leon 2 S Luis 0; Atlas 2 Monterrey 1.
Feb 17: Pumas 1 Morelia 0; Puebla 1 Guadalajara 1; Atlante 1 Queretaro 1.
Feb 22: Morelia 3 Pachuca 2; Santos 1 America 0.
Feb 23: Cruz Azul 1 Tigres 2; Queretaro 0 Atlas 0; Monterrey 3 Puebla 0; Tijuana 2 Atlante 0; San Luis 0 Pumas 2.
Feb 24: Toluca 2 Jaguares 1; Guadalajara 2 Leon 1.
Mar 1: Jaguares 1 Santos 3.
Mar 2: America 3 Cruz Azul 0; Queretaro 1 Monterrey 0; Pachuca 2 San Luis 1; Tigres 1 Morelia 1; Leon 0 Puebla 1; Atlas 1 Tijuana 0.
Mar 3: Pumas 1 Guadalajara 1; Atlante 0 Toluca 1.

**MEXICO – CLAUSURA: REGULAR**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tigres | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 21 |
| Atlas | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 20 |
| America | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 7 | 19 |
| Tijuana | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 16 |
| Pachuca | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 16 |
| Santos | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 15 |
| Puebla | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Pumas | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 13 |
| Guadalajara | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 12 |
| Morelia | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| Toluca | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| Queretaro | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 11 |
| Cruz Azul | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Monterrey | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 10 |
| Atlante | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 19 | 7 |
| Leon | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 5 |
| Jaguares | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 5 |
| San Luis | 9 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 18 | 2 |

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 will enter clausura championship play-offs, the team with the worst points-per-game average over the 3 most recent seasons will be relegated

## UNITED STATES

Regular season

Mar 2: Philadelphia 1 Kansas City 3; Vancouver 1 Toronto 0; Houston 2 DC United 0; Dallas 1 Colorado 0; Seattle 0 Montreal 1; Chivas 0 Columbus 3.
Mar 3: Los Angeles 4 Chicago 0; Portland 3 New York 3; San Jose 0 Salt Lake 2.

**USA – REGULAR: EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Columbus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Kansas City | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Houston | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Montreal | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| New York | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| New England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toronto | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| DC United | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Chicago | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

34-round regular season (7x3 & 2x2 in own conference, 9x1 in western conference)

**USA – REGULAR: WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| Salt Lake | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Dallas | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Vancouver | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Portland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Colorado | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Seattle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| San Jose | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Chivas | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

34-round regular season (8x3 in own conference, 10x1 in eastern conference)

Top 5 in both conferences will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

# AFRICA

## AFRICAN SUPER CUP

(Champions League holders, Al Ahly v Confederation Cup holders, AC Leopards)

*Feb 23 - Borg El Arab, Egypt*
**Al Ahly (Egy) 2** (Rabia 55, Barakat 71)
**AC Leopards (Con) 1** (Bebhey-Ndey 78)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Gassama (Gam)

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### 1st round

*1st legs - Feb 15-17; 2nd legs - Mar 1-3*
AC Leopards (Con) v CF Mounana (Gab) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1); AFAD Djekanou (IvC) v Diamond Stars (SLe) 5-1, 1-1 (agg 6-2); APR (Rwa) v Vital'O (Brd) 1-2, 1-0 (agg 2-2, Vital'O on away goals); AS Vita Club (DRC) v Dynamic Togolais (Tog) 3-0, 2-1 (agg 5-1); Asante Kotoko (Gha) v Sony Ela Nguema (EqG) 7-0, 0-0 (agg 7-0); ASPAC (Ben) v ASFA Yennenga (BuF) 1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2, ASFA Yennenga 5-4 on pens); CA Bizertin (Tun) v Al Ittihad (Lby) 1-1, 1-0 (agg 2-1); Coton Sport (Cam) v Revenue Authority (Uga) 0-0, 0-0 (agg 0-0, Coton Sport 4-3 on pens); Dynamos (Zim) v Correctional Services (Les) 3-0, 0-1 (agg 3-1); FUS Rabat (Mor) v Real Banjul (Gam) 1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2, FUS Rabat on away goals); Horoya (Gui) v Sewe Sports (IvC) 0-0, 0-3 (agg 0-3); Jamhuri (Zan) v Saint George (Eth) 0-3, 0-5 (agg 0-8); JSM Bejaia (Alg) v Olympic (Ngr) 3-0, 0-0 (agg 3-0); Kano Pillars (Nga) v Olympic Real (CAR) 5-1, 0-0 (agg 5-1);

Safe hands...Siwarak

### THAILAND

## Keeper is penalty king

Buriram United's Siwarak Tedsungnoen saved three spot-kicks as his side beat Australia's Brisbane Roar on penalties to secure their place in the AFC Champions League group stage. The goalkeeper denied Thomas Broich, Besart Berisha and James Meyer in the East Asian Zone play-off after the game had finished goalless after extra time.

Manchester United will begin their tour of Asia with a game against an All Star XI in Bangkok on July 13.

### VIETNAM

## European club games

Italian side Roma are to play a friendly game in Vietnam on June 2.

Premier League club Arsenal will spend three days in the capital, Hanoi, during the summer and will face Vietnam's national team on July 17 at the My Dinh National Stadium.

### YEMAN

## Shab Ibb victorious

Al Shab Ibb won the Super Cup, beating Al Ahli Taiz on penalties after coming from behind to draw 1-1.

Maxaquene (Moz) v Mochudi Centre Chiefs (Bot) 0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2); Moghreb Tetouan (Mor) v Casa Sport (Sen) 1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1, Casa Sport 3-1 on pens); Orlando Pirates (SAf) v Djabal (Com) 5-0, 4-0 (agg 9-0); Primeiro Agosto (Ang) v AS Adema (Mad) 4-2, 0-1 (agg 4-3); Simba (Tan) v Recreativo Libolo (Ang) 0-1, 0-4 (agg 0-5); St Michel United (Sey) v Tusker (Ken) 1-4, 0-3 (agg 1-7); Union Douala (Cam) v LISCR (Lbr) 2-1, 1-0 (agg 3-1); Zamalek (Egy) v Gazelle (Chd) 7-0, 0-0 (agg 7-0); Zanaco (Zam) v Mbabane Swallows (Swa) 3-2, 0-0 (agg 3-2)

*Enugu Rangers (Nga) v Sporting Principe (STP) – Enugu given walkover after Principe failed to appear for 1st leg*

**Byes to 2nd round**
Al Ahly (Egy), Al Hilal (Sud), Al Merreikh (Sud), Djoliba (Mli), ES Setif (Alg), Esperance (Tun), Stade Malien (Mli), TP Mazembe (DRC)

# ASIA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Qualifying play-offs

(single-leg ties)
Feb 9: Al Nasr (UAE) 3 Lokomotiv Tashkent (Uzb) 2; Saba Qom (Irn) 1 Al Shabab Al Arabi (UAE) 1 (aet, Al Shabab Al Arabi 5-3 on pens).
Feb 13: Buriram United (Tha) 0 Brisbane Roar (Aus) 0 (aet, Buriram 3-0 on pens).

*Winners qualified for group stage*

### Group stage

**Group A**
Feb 26: Al Shabab (Sau) 2 El Jaish (Qat) 0; Tractor Sazi (Irn) 3 Al Jazira (UAE) 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tractor Sazi | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Al Shabab | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Al Jazira | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| El Jaish | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

**Group B**
Feb 26: Lekhwiya (Qat) 2 Al Shabab Al Arabi (UAE) 1; Pakhtakor (Uzb) 1 Al Ettifaq (Sau) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lekhwiya | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pakhtakor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Shabab Arabi | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Al Ettifaq | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**Group C**
Feb 27: Al Ahli (Sau) 2 Al Gharafa (Qat) 0; Sepahan (Irn) 3 Al Nasr (UAE) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sepahan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Al Ahli | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Al Gharafa | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Al Nasr | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

**Group D**
Feb 27: Al Ain (UAE) 3 Al Hilal (Sau) 1; Al Rayyan (Qat) 3 Esteghlal (Irn) 3.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Ain | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Al Rayyan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Esteghlal | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Al Hilal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

**Group E**
Feb 26: Seoul (SKo) 5 Jiangsu Sainty (Chn) 1; Vegalta Sendai (Jap) 1 Buriram United (Tha) 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seoul | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Buriram | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Vegalta | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Jiangsu | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

**Group F**
Feb 26: Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn) 3 Urawa Red Diamonds (Jap) 0; Muangthong United (Tha) 2 Jeonbuk Hyundai (SKo) 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guangzhou | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Jeonbuk | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Muangthong | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Urawa | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

**Group G**
Feb 27: Pohang Steelers (SKo) 0 Beijing Guoan (Chn) 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jap) 0 Bunyodkor (Uzb) 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bunyodkor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Beijing | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Pohang | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sanfrecce | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

**Group H**
Feb 27: Central Coast Mariners (Aus) 0 Suwon Bluewings (SKo) 0; Guizhou Renhe (Chn) 0 Kashiwa Reysol (Jap) 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kashiwa | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Central Coast | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Suwon | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Guizhou | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**Remaining matchdays**
*Mar 12/13, Apr 2/3, Apr 9/10, Apr 23/24, Apr 30/May 1*

*Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round*

## AUSTRALIA

**Regular season**
Feb 7: Central Coast 5 Wellington Phoenix 0.
Feb 8: Adelaide 1 Melbourne Victory 0.
Feb 9: Melbourne Heart 2 Perth 0; Western Sydney 2 Newcastle 1.
Feb 10: Sydney 2 Brisbane 1.
Feb 15: Newcastle 2 Melbourne 0.
Feb 16: Sydney 2 Adelaide 1; Melbourne Victory 1 Western Sydney 2; Perth 2 Central Coast 1.
Feb 17: Brisbane 2 Wellington Phoenix 0.
Feb 22: Newcastle 0 Brisbane 0.
Feb 23: Western Sydney 1 Perth 0; Central Coast 6 Melbourne Victory 2.
Feb 24: Wellington Phoenix 2 Adelaide 2; Melbourne Heart 3 Sydney 1.
Feb 27: Wellington Phoenix 1 Newcastle 2.
Mar 2: Adelaide 0 Brisbane 1; Central Coast 0 Western Sydney 1; Perth 2 Sydney 1.
Mar 3: Wellington Phoenix 1 Melbourne Heart 0; Melbourne Victory 5 Newcastle 0.

**AUSTRALIA – REGULAR**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W Sydney (Q) | 23 | 15 | 2 | 6 | 32 | 18 | 47 |
| Central C'st (Q) | 23 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 43 | 19 | 45 |
| Melbourne V | 23 | 12 | 3 | 8 | 41 | 38 | 39 |
| Adelaide | 23 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 34 | 33 | 36 |
| Newcastle | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 28 | 39 | 30 |
| Brisbane | 23 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 27 | 26 | 28 |
| Melbourne H | 23 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 29 | 31 | 27 |
| Sydney | 23 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 36 | 46 | 27 |
| Perth | 23 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 22 | 25 | 25 |
| Wellington P | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 26 | 43 | 24 |

27-round regular season (9x3); top 6 will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

## JAPAN

Mar 2: Vegalta 1 Ventforet 1; Yokohama 4 Shonan 2; Nagoya 1 Jubilo 1; Cerezo 1 Albirex 0; Sanfrecce 1 Urawa 2; Sagan 1 Kashima 1; Omiya 2 Shimizu 2; Oita 1 Tokyo 2.
Mar 3: Kashiwa 3 Kawasaki 1.

**JAPAN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yokohama | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Kashiwa | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Tokyo | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Urawa | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cerezo | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Omiya | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Shimizu | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Jubilo | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kashima | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Nagoya | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sagan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Vegalta | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ventforet | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Oita | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Sanfrecce | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Albirex | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Shonan | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Kawasaki | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

# OCEANIA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Group stage draw

**Group A**
Amicale (Van)
Ba (Fij)
Hekari United (PNG)
Solomon Warriors (Sol)

**Group B**
Auckland City (NZ)
Dragon (Tah)
Mont-Dore (NC)
Waitakere United (NZ)

*Games to be played between Mar 30 and Apr 27*

*Top 2 in both groups qualify for semi-finals*

**KEY TO TABLES**
(C) = champions (Q) = qualified (R) = relegated

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**EDITOR** Gavin Hamilton
**ART EDITOR** Gary Payne
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**EDITORIAL**
Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU
Tel: +44 (0) 20 3148 4817
Fax: +44 (0) 20 3148 8130
E-mail: world_soccer@ipcmedia.com

**ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP**
Agi Power
Tel: +44 (0) 20 3148 2537
+44 (0) 20 3148 2823
E-mail: agi_power@ipcmedia.com

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**MANAGING DIRECTOR** Paul Williams

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**International licensing enquiries**
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E-mail: bianca_hamilton-foster@ipcmedia.com

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# ARGENTINA PRIMERA TORNEO FINAL 2012-13

## ALL BOYS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Nicolas CAMBIASSO | 02.03.78 |
| 27 | Lucas DI GRAZIA | 03.06.86 |
| 13 | Bernardo LEYENDA | 26.03.80 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 23 | Maximiliano CORONEL | 28.04.89 |
| 26 | Jonathan FERRARI | 08.05.87 |
| 19 | Diego FUENTES | 19.01.91 |
| 4 | Hernan GRANA | 12.04.85 |
| 18 | Matias LEQUI | 13.05.81 |
| 30 | Francisco MARTINEZ | 04.06.90 |
| 33 | Facundo QUIROGA | 10.11.78 |
| 6 | Carlos SOTO | 20.01.84 |
| 15 | Christian VARELA | 09.06.90 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 14 | Oscar AHUMADA | 31.08.82 |
| 34 | Juan CAREAGA | 23.04.93 |
| 25 | Elvio FRIEDRICH | 25.06.85 |
| 24 | Santiago MONTOYA MUNOZ (Col) | 15.09.91 |
| 10 | Martin MOREL | 15.05.80 |
| 29 | Matias NAVARRETE | 07.03.87 |
| 11 | Emanuel PEREA | 08.04.85 |
| 8 | Fernando SANCHEZ | 20.01.76 |
| 22 | Brian SARMIENTO | 24.04.90 |
| 21 | Juan Semeria | 11.03.90 |
| 5 | Dario STEFANATTO | 03.04.85 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 7 | Ivan BORGHELLO | 12.03.83 |
| 28 | Jose Manuel CASPARY | 19.05.86 |
| 20 | Lautaro FERNANDEZ | 07.09.93 |
| 31 | Nicolas MARTINEZ VARGAS | 19.03.91 |
| 16 | Javier SONER | 19.03.95 |
| 9 | Luis VILDOZO | 09.12.81 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Jose Santos ROMERO | 03.11.51 |

## ARGENTINOS JNRS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 20 | Nereo FERNANDEZ | 13.04.79 |
| 12 | Sebastian GIOVINI | 28.02.90 |
| 1 | Luis OJEDA | 21.03.90 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 16 | Julio BARRAZA | 04.03.80 |
| 4 | Pablo BARZOLA | 17.11.83 |
| 21 | Nicolas BATISTA | 27.01.91 |
| 27 | Franco FLORES | 28.05.93 |
| 15 | Ariel GARCE | 14.07.79 |
| 3 | Matias MARTINEZ | 24.03.88 |
| 6 | Anibal MATELLAN | 08.05.77 |
| 31 | Federico PISTONE | 13.06.90 |
| 13 | Diego PLACENTE | 27.07.77 |
| 30 | Lucas RODRIGUEZ | 27.09.93 |
| 2 | Miguel TORREN | 12.08.88 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 7 | Alejandro CAPURRO | 31.10.80 |
| 8 | Pablo HERNANDEZ | 24.10.86 |
| 5 | Gaspar INIGUEZ | 26.03.94 |
| 14 | Matias LABA | 11.12.91 |
| 18 | Carlos NAGUEL | 28.01.93 |
| 25 | Sebastian NAVARRO | 24.02.88 |
| 24 | Juan Edgardo RAMIREZ | 25.05.93 |
| 26 | Fabio VAZQUEZ | 19.02.94 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 29 | Juan Luis ANANGONO (Ecu) | 13.04.89 |
| 9 | Leandro BARRERA | 22.02.91 |
| 11 | Leandro CARUSO | 14.07.81 |
| 22 | Jose Carlos FERNANDEZ (Per) | 14.05.83 |
| 19 | Marcos FIGUEROA | 18.01.90 |
| 10 | Leonel NUNEZ | 13.10.84 |
| 17 | Daniel VILLALVA | 06.07.92 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Gabriel SCHURRER | 16.08.71 |

## ARSENAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 12 | Javier BURRAI | 09.10.90 |
| 17 | Cristian CAMPESTRINI | 16.06.80 |
| 1 | Emiliano OLIVERO | 27.03.86 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 6 | Diego BRAGHIERI | 23.02.87 |
| 27 | Eduardo CASAIS | 19.03.85 |
| 14 | Victor CUESTA | 19.11.86 |
| 4 | Danilo GERLO | 07.03.79 |
| 3 | Lucas KRUSPZKY | 06.04.92 |
| 2 | Lisandro LOPEZ | 01.09.89 |
| 24 | Hugo NERVO | 06.01.91 |
| 15 | Damian PEREZ | 22.12.86 |
| 13 | Matias ZALDIVIA | 22.01.90 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 19 | Nicolas AGUIRRE | 27.06.90 |
| 7 | Carlos CARBONERO (Col) | 25.07.90 |
| 26 | Julian CARDOZO | 02.01.91 |
| 20 | Gaston ESMERADO | 08.02.78 |
| 16 | Gonzalo ESPINOZA (Chl) | 09.04.90 |
| 22 | Walter GOMEZ | 05.04.90 |
| 23 | Ivan MARCONE | 03.06.90 |
| 5 | Jorge ORTIZ | 20.06.84 |
| 10 | Martin ROLLE | 02.02.85 |
| - | Nahuel SACHETTO | 06.02.88 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 18 | Dario BENEDETTO | 10.01.86 |
| 29 | Milton CELIZ | 25.07.92 |
| 9 | Julio FURCH | 29.07.89 |
| 28 | Juan GONZALEZ | 15.10.91 |
| 30 | Fatai OLUSHOLA (Nig) | 07.07.92 |
| 21 | Pablo LUGUERCIO | 10.03.82 |
| - | Matias SIERRA | 19.02.90 |
| 8 | Diego TORRES | 03.07.82 |
| 11 | Emilio ZELAYA | 30.07.87 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Gustavo ALFARO | 14.08.62 |

## ATLETICO RAFAELA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 12 | Esteban CONDE (Uru) | 04.03.83 |
| 1 | Guillermo SARA | 30.09.87 |
| 20 | Axel WERNER | 28.02.96 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 3 | Lucas BOVAGLIO | 19.04.79 |
| 2 | Oscar CARNIELLO | 18.09.88 |
| - | Julian FERNANDEZ | 18.07.89 |
| 21 | Fabricio FONTANINI | 30.03.90 |
| 14 | Cristian MACHIN (Uru) | 05.12.88 |
| 15 | Alexis NIZ | 17.05.88 |
| 24 | Joel SACKS | 10.04.89 |
| 4 | Cristian VELLA | 06.03.78 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 26 | Sebastian CARRERA | 25.05.78 |
| 28 | Juan ELUCHANS | 14.04.80 |
| 22 | Raul FERRO (Uru) | 13.01.83 |
| 5 | Matias FISSORE | 21.09.90 |
| 18 | Diego FRAIRE | 31.05.89 |
| 33 | Pablo GAITAN | 09.05.92 |
| - | Walter GAITAN | 13.03.77 |
| 32 | Sebastian GRAZZINI | 25.01.81 |
| 8 | Ivan JUAREZ | 20.10.77 |
| 17 | Pablo PAVETTI | 20.03.91 |
| - | Juan Pablo RAPONI | 07.05.80 |
| 16 | German RODRIGUEZ ROJAS | 05.01.90 |
| 7 | Walter SERRANO | 02.07.86 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 13 | Rodrigo DEPETRIS | 05.05.90 |
| - | Lucio FILOMENO | 08.05.80 |
| 10 | Dario GANDIN | 07.12.83 |
| 11 | Federico GONZALEZ | 01.06.87 |
| 25 | Ariel LEDERHOS | 04.01.92 |
| 29 | Jonathan LOPEZ | 19.01.89 |
| - | Ezequiel SCHRAM | 21.02.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Jorge BURRUCHAGA | 09.10.62 |

## BELGRANO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 35 | Guido HERRERA | 29.02.92 |
| 20 | Pablo HEREDIA | 11.06.90 |
| 1 | Juan OLAVE | 21.02.76 |
| 28 | Cesar RIGAMONTI | 07.04.87 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 37 | Lucas AVELDANO | 19.07.85 |
| 6 | Luciano LOLLO | 29.03.87 |
| 3 | Juan QUIROGA | 20.04.82 |
| 21 | Joan RAMOS | 22.05.90 |
| 30 | Sergio RODRIGUEZ (Uru) | 05.01.85 |
| 25 | Gaston TURUS | 27.05.80 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 16 | Gaston ALVAREZ SUAREZ | 05.04.93 |
| 10 | Cesar CARRANZA | 16.08.80 |
| 18 | Ivan ETEVENAUX | 20.10.89 |
| 5 | Guillermo FARRE | 16.08.81 |
| 32 | Esteban GONZALEZ | 16.09.78 |
| 11 | Cesar MANSANELLI | 29.08.80 |
| 15 | Lucas PITTINARI | 30.11.91 |
| 24 | Emiliano RIGONI | 04.02.93 |
| 19 | Jorge VELAZQUEZ | 07.09.82 |
| 14 | Martin ZAPATA | 18.12.79 |
| 31 | Lucas ZELARRAYAN | 20.06.92 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 13 | Victor AQUINO (Par) | 26.11.85 |
| 27 | Giuliano BARDIN | 16.08.92 |
| 12 | Tobias FIGUEROA | 04.02.92 |
| 9 | Fernando MARQUEZ | 10.12.87 |
| 41 | Juan MARTIN | 27.04.82 |
| 26 | Lucas MELANO | 01.03.93 |
| 7 | Cesar PEREYRA | 23.11.81 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Ricardo ZIELINSKI | 14.10.59 |

## BOCA JUNIORS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 12 | Sebastian D'ANGELO | 14.01.89 |
| 1 | Agustin ORION | 26.06.81 |
| 23 | Oscar USTARI | 03.07.86 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 13 | Emiliano ALBIN (Uru) | 24.01.89 |
| 6 | Guillermo BURDISSO | 26.09.88 |
| 15 | Matias CARUZZO | 15.08.84 |
| 14 | Cristian CELLAY | 05.09.81 |
| 16 | Lisandro MAGALLAN | 27.09.93 |
| 2 | Claudio PEREZ | 26.12.85 |
| 3 | Clemente RODRIGUEZ | 31.07.81 |
| 4 | Franco SOSA | 04.04.81 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 24 | Lautaro ACOSTA | 14.03.88 |
| 36 | Leonardo BAIMA | 05.10.92 |
| 39 | Exequiel BENAVIDEZ | 05.03.89 |
| 19 | Carlos COLAZO | 08.07.90 |
| 17 | Cristian ERBES | 06.01.90 |
| 11 | Walter ERVITI | 12.07.80 |
| 22 | Guillermo FERNANDEZ | 11.10.91 |
| 8 | Pablo LEDESMA | 04.02.84 |
| 33 | Jonathan MAZZOLA | 30.04.91 |
| 20 | Leandro PAREDES | 29.06.94 |
| 10 | Juan Roman RIQUELME | 24.06.78 |
| 26 | Diego RIVERO | 11.08.81 |
| 21 | Ribair RODRIGUEZ (Uru) | 04.10.87 |
| 5 | Leandro SOMOZA | 26.01.81 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 25 | Nicolas BLANDI | 13.01.90 |
| 31 | Franco FRAGAPANE | 06.02.93 |
| 30 | Juan Manuel IMBERT | 31.03.90 |
| 7 | Juan Manuel MARTINEZ | 25.10.85 |
| 9 | Santiago SILVA (Uru) | 09.12.80 |
| 18 | Lucas VIATRI | 29.03.87 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Carlos BIANCHI | 26.04.49 |

## COLON

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 12 | Andres BAILO | 06.09.88 |
| 1 | Diego POZO | 16.02.78 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 3 | Gerardo ALCOBA (Uru) | 25.11.84 |
| 14 | Maximiliano CAIRE | 12.07.88 |
| 28 | Luis Leandro CASTILLO | 12.02.91 |
| 33 | Emir FACCIOLI | 05.08.89 |
| 21 | Santiago FOSGT BREHM | 17.03.86 |
| 25 | Maximiliano PELLEGRINO | 26.01.80 |
| 6 | Ronald RALDES (Bol) | 20.04.81 |
| 2 | Martin ROMERO | 13.01.83 |
| 23 | Bruno URIBARRI | 11.10.87 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 9 | Adrian BASTIA | 20.12.78 |
| 22 | Hernan BERNARDELLO | 03.08.86 |
| 34 | Marcos FERNANDEZ | 20.04.93 |
| 11 | Ricardo GOMEZ | 23.10.81 |
| 15 | Gabriel GRACIANI | 28.11.92 |
| 13 | Marcelo MELLI | 20.06.92 |
| 16 | Ivan MORENO Y FABIANESI (Spa) | 04.06.79 |
| 10 | Lucas MUGNI | 12.01.92 |
| 5 | Leonardo PREDIGER | 04.09.86 |
| - | Geronimo POBLETE | 04.09.92 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 8 | Jorge ACHUCARRO (Par) | 06.11.81 |
| 27 | Lucas ALARIO | 08.10.92 |
| 26 | Marcelo ARGUELLO | 19.01.93 |
| 31 | Martin COMACHI | 22.10.91 |
| 7 | Facundo CURUCHET | 21.01.90 |
| 32 | Emmanuel GIGLIOTTI | 20.05.87 |
| 29 | Federico JOURDAN | 13.01.91 |
| 24 | Carlos LUQUE | 01.03.93 |
| 18 | Ruben RAMIREZ | 17.10.82 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Nestor SENSINI | 12.10.66 |

## ESTUDIANTES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 28 | Geronimo RULLI | 20.05.92 |
| 12 | Agustin SILVA | 28.06.89 |
| 34 | German VOUILLOUD | 12.11.90 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 14 | Marcos ANGELERI | 07.04.83 |
| 2 | Leandro DESABATO | 24.01.79 |
| 13 | Dylan GISSI (Swi) | 27.04.91 |
| 3 | Raul IBERBIA | 25.12.89 |
| 16 | German RE | 02.11.81 |
| 32 | Mauricio ROSALES | 10.03.92 |
| 4 | Matias SARULYTE | 13.03.89 |
| 21 | Jonatan SCHUNKE | 22.02.87 |
| 24 | Jonathan SILVA | 29.06.94 |
| 30 | Emanuel TARABINI | 07.04.92 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 23 | Leandro BENITEZ | 05.04.81 |
| 22 | Rodrigo BRANA | 07.03.79 |
| - | Hector CARDOZO | 05.08.91 |
| 26 | Carlos CORREA | 13.08.94 |
| - | Cristian GAITAN | 15.01.90 |
| 7 | Marcos GELABERT | 19.09.81 |
| 25 | Gaston GIL ROMERO | 06.05.93 |
| 8 | Mariano GONZALEZ | 05.05.81 |
| 33 | Michael HOYOS | 02.08.91 |
| 31 | Leonardo JARA | 20.05.91 |
| 6 | Roman MARTINEZ | 27.03.83 |
| 29 | Sergio MODON | 25.06.92 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 27 | Carlos AUZQUI | 16.09.91 |
| 17 | Guido CARRILLO | 25.05.91 |
| 10 | Gaston FERNANDEZ | 12.10.83 |
| - | Alvaro KLUSENER | 18.05.90 |
| 19 | Maximiliano NUNEZ | 17.09.86 |
| 9 | Duvan ZAPATA (Col) | 01.04.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Diego CAGNA | 19.04.70 |

## GODOY CRUZ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Nelson IBANEZ | 13.11.81 |
| 25 | Sebastian MOYANO | 28.08.90 |
| 12 | Sebastian TORRICO | 22.02.80 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 21 | Fabrizio ANGILERI | 15.03.94 |
| 22 | Lucas CEBALLOS | 03.01.87 |
| 13 | Jorge CURBELO (Uru) | 21.12.81 |
| 3 | Leandro GRIMI | 09.02.85 |
| 18 | Emanuel INSUA | 10.04.91 |
| 6 | Nicolas SANCHEZ | 04.02.86 |
| 4 | Jose SAN ROMAN | 17.08.88 |
| 2 | Leonardo SIGALI | 29.05.87 |
| 29 | Leandro OLIVARES | 15.05.92 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 31 | Washington CAMACHO (Uru) | 08.04.86 |
| 8 | Gonzalo CASTELLANI | 10.08.87 |
| 11 | Alexis Nicolas CASTRO | 23.01.84 |
| 19 | Jose Luis FERNANDEZ | 26.10.87 |
| 26 | Luis JEREZ SILVA | 20.02.89 |
| 23 | Eduardo LEDESMA (Par) | 07.08.85 |
| 5 | Federico LERTORA | 05.07.90 |
| 10 | David RAMIREZ | 18.02.81 |
| 20 | Leonel RIOS | 17.11.82 |
| 14 | Sergio SANCHEZ | 24.01.88 |
| 27 | Fernando ZUQUI | 27.11.91 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 17 | Rius ARAGALLO | 27.10.88 |
| 7 | Facundo CASTILLON | 21.08.86 |
| 15 | Armando COOPER (Pan) | 26.11.87 |
| 28 | Juan GARRO | 24.11.92 |
| 9 | Mauro OBOLO | 28.09.81 |
| 33 | Renato PINEDO | 22.05.91 |
| 16 | Rodrigo SALINAS | 04.07.86 |
| 32 | Diego SEVILLANO | 24.02.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Martin PALERMO | 07.11.73 |

## INDEPENDIENTE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 21 | Fabian ASSMANN | 23.03.86 |
| 1 | Hilario NAVARRO | 14.11.80 |
| 17 | Diego RODRIGUEZ | 25.06.89 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 34 | Samuel CACERES (Par) | 20.03.89 |
| 39 | Gonzalo CONTRERA | 20.03.94 |
| 27 | Leonel GALEANO | 02.08.91 |
| 24 | Federico GAY | 07.12.91 |
| 35 | Juan Manuel TREJO | 12.01.92 |
| 3 | Claudio MOREL (Par) | 02.02.78 |
| 2 | Cristian TULA | 28.01.78 |
| 6 | Eduardo TUZZIO | 31.07.74 |
| 28 | Gabriel VALLES | 31.05.86 |
| 18 | Julian VELAZQUEZ | 23.10.90 |
| 4 | Nicolas VILLAGRA | 20.03.84 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 5 | Roberto BATTION | 01.03.82 |
| 11 | Osmar FERREYRA | 09.01.83 |
| 8 | Hernan FREDES | 27.03.87 |
| 15 | Fernando GODOY | 01.05.90 |
| 23 | Federico MANCUELLO | 26.03.89 |
| 33 | Leonel MIRANDA | 07.01.94 |
| 14 | Fabian MONSERRAT | 25.06.92 |
| 10 | Daniel MONTENEGRO | 28.03.79 |
| 19 | Jonathan SANTANA (Par) | 19.10.81 |
| 22 | Fabian VARGAS (Col) | 17.04.80 |
| 16 | Victor ZAPATA | 20.01.79 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 29 | Martin BENITEZ | 17.06.94 |
| 20 | Juan Fernando CAICEDO (Col) | 13.07.89 |
| 9 | Ernesto FARIAS | 29.05.80 |
| 7 | Felix LEGUIZAMON | 01.07.82 |
| 40 | Eloy RODRIGUEZ | 03.05.93 |
| 25 | Patricio VIDAL | 08.04.92 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Americo GALLEGO | 25.04.55 |

## LANUS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 31 | Esteban ANDRADA | 26.01.91 |
| 1 | Agustin MARCHESIN | 16.03.88 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 4 | Carlos ARAUJO | 19.11.81 |
| 16 | Victor AYALA (Par) | 01.01.88 |
| 3 | Luciano BALBI | 04.04.89 |
| - | Bruno BILOTTI | 04.07.91 |
| 2 | Paolo GOLTZ | 12.05.85 |
| 13 | Luis HERRERA | 26.02.92 |
| 24 | Carlos IZQUIERDOZ | 03.11.88 |
| - | Marcos PINTO | 25.01.94 |
| 25 | Maximiliano VELAZQUEZ | 14.03.80 |
| 6 | Oswaldo VIZCARRONDO (Ven) | 31.05.84 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 8 | Fernando BARRIENTOS | 17.11.91 |
| 23 | Oscar BENITEZ | 14.01.93 |
| 11 | Cristian CHAVEZ | 16.06.86 |
| 5 | Diego GONZALEZ | 09.02.88 |
| 33 | Juan Miguel JAIME | 01.01.93 |
| 21 | Nicolas PASQUINI | 02.01.91 |
| 19 | Guido PIZARRO | 26.02.90 |
| - | Nicolas SUAREZ | 02.01.92 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 18 | Ismael BLANCO | 19.01.83 |
| 9 | Leandro DIAZ | 06.06.92 |
| - | Matias LINAS | 08.06.93 |
| 10 | Mario REGUEIRO (Uru) | 14.09.78 |
| 20 | Silvio ROMERO | 22.07.88 |
| 17 | Andres SENA | 24.11.94 |
| 30 | Bruno VIDES | 20.02.93 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Guillermo BARROS SCHELOTTO | 04.05.73 |

## NEWELL'S OLD BOYS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Nahuel GUZMAN | 10.08.86 |
| 22 | Sebastian PERATTA | 01.11.76 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 4 | Marcos CACERES (Par) | 05.05.86 |
| 26 | Cristian DIAZ | 26.05.89 |
| 30 | Guillermo FERRACUTI | 11.02.91 |
| 20 | Gabriel HEINZE | 19.03.78 |
| 6 | Victor LOPEZ | 19.12.78 |
| 42 | Guillermo ORTIZ | 09.08.92 |
| - | Maximiliano POLLACHI | 04.01.95 |
| 31 | Jonathan VALLE | 26.01.93 |
| 27 | Santiago VERGINI | 03.08.88 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 17 | Jose AGUERO | 22.02.93 |
| 7 | Lucas BERNARDI | 27.09.77 |
| 15 | Milton CASCO | 11.04.88 |
| 24 | Lorenzo FARAVELLI | 29.03.93 |
| 19 | Gabriel HACHEN | 16.10.90 |
| 5 | Diego MATEO | 07.08.78 |
| 16 | Victor FIGUEROA | 29.09.83 |
| 18 | Horacio ORZAN | 14.04.88 |
| 36 | Marcos PEREZ | 10.05.93 |
| 8 | Pablo PEREZ | 10.08.85 |
| 11 | Maximiliano RODRIGUEZ | 02.01.81 |
| 28 | Martin TONSO | 19.10.89 |
| 29 | Juan Ignacio VIEYRA | 20.04.92 |
| 33 | Raul VILLALBA | 09.02.89 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 34 | Hernan ALTOLAGUIRRE | 19.02.93 |
| 39 | Fabian MUNOZ | 03.11.91 |
| 32 | Ignacio SCOCCO | 29.05.85 |
| 37 | Maximiliano URRUTI | 22.02.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Gerardo MARTINO | 20.11.62 |

## QUILMES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 25 | Silvio DULCICH | 01.10.81 |
| 1 | Emanuel TRIPODI | 08.01.81 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 6 | Mauro CARLI | 19.10.86 |
| 3 | Ernesto GONI (Uru) | 13.01.85 |
| 23 | Cristian LEMA | 24.03.90 |
| 24 | Cristian LEYES | 14.01.86 |
| 13 | Pablo LIMA (Uru) | 26.03.81 |
| 2 | Sebastian MARTINEZ (Uru) | 11.04.83 |
| 20 | Wilfredo OLIVERA | 04.05.87 |
| 14 | Ismael QUILEZ | 16.11.89 |
| 4 | Jorge SERRANO | 13.12.83 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 10 | Miguel CANEO | 17.03.83 |
| 5 | Juan Manuel COBO | 26.11.84 |
| 8 | Leandro DIAZ | 26.06.86 |
| 36 | Fernando ELIZARI | 05.04.91 |
| 15 | Miguel LOPEZ | 09.06.88 |
| 22 | German MANDARINO | 13.12.84 |
| 19 | Jacobo MANSILLA | 15.06.87 |
| 35 | Pablo MATTOS | 23.03.90 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| - | Luis BENITEZ | 14.02.85 |
| 7 | Martin CAUTERUCCIO (Uru) | 14.04.87 |
| 11 | Facundo DIZ | 16.04.79 |
| 26 | Pablo GARNIER | 26.02.81 |
| 28 | Martin GIMENEZ | 30.09.88 |
| 16 | Sergio HIPPERDINGER | 14.01.92 |
| 30 | Cristian INSAURRALDE | 20.07.91 |
| 18 | Cristian MENENDEZ | 02.04.88 |
| 21 | Gustavo OBERMAN | 25.03.85 |
| 17 | Sebastian ROMERO | 27.04.78 |
| 9 | Fernando TELECHEA | 06.10.81 |
| 33 | Saul TOLOZA | 05.06.90 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Omar DE FELIPPE | 03.04.62 |

## RACING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 21 | Jorge DE OLIVERA | 21.08.82 |
| 24 | Diego GALANTERNIK | 27.02.91 |
| 13 | Juan MUSSO | 06.05.94 |
| 1 | Diego SAJA | 05.06.79 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 6 | Matias CAHAIS | 24.12.87 |
| 32 | Claudio CORVALAN | 23.03.89 |
| 3 | Alejandro GARCIA | 26.02.91 |
| 23 | Braian LLUY | 25.04.89 |
| 17 | Leonardo MIGLIONICO (Uru) | 31.01.80 |
| 19 | Fernando ORTIZ | 25.12.77 |
| 4 | Ivan PILLUD | 24.04.86 |
| 35 | Esteban SAVELJICH | 02.05.91 |
| 27 | Hugo SILVA | 04.02.92 |
| - | Lucas VESCO | 28.01.90 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 22 | Luciano AUED | 01.03.87 |
| 25 | Mario BOLATTI | 17.02.85 |
| 16 | Mauro CAMORANESI (Ita) | 04.10.76 |
| 26 | Adrian CENTURION | 19.01.93 |
| 20 | Rodrigo DE PAUL | 24.05.94 |
| - | Lorenzo MAYORGA | 02.02.90 |
| 5 | Agustin PELLETIERI | 17.05.82 |
| 14 | Martin PEREZ GUEDES | 18.08.91 |
| - | Raul POCLABA | 23.01.90 |
| 8 | Diego VILLAR | 25.04.82 |
| 7 | Bruno ZUCULINI | 02.04.93 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 18 | Javier CAMPORA | 07.01.80 |
| 39 | Ignacio COLOMBINI | 12.05.92 |
| 11 | Luis FARINA | 20.04.91 |
| 9 | Jose SAND | 17.07.80 |
| 12 | Luciano VIETTO | 05.12.93 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Luis ZUBELDIA | 13.01.81 |

## RIVER PLATE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Marcelo BAROVERO | 18.02.84 |
| 19 | Leandro CHICHIZOLA | 27.03.90 |
| 13 | Gonzalo MARINELLI | 07.02.89 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 4 | Luciano ABECASIS | 04.06.90 |
| 27 | Jonathan BOTTINELLI | 14.09.84 |
| 6 | Jose FUNES MORI | 05.03.91 |
| 24 | Leandro GONZALEZ PIREZ | 26.02.92 |
| 2 | Jonatan MAIDANA | 29.04.85 |
| 30 | Diego MARTINEZ | 05.07.92 |
| 25 | Gabriel MERCADO | 18.03.87 |
| 20 | German PEZZELLA | 27.06.91 |
| 3 | Adalberto ROMAN (Par) | 11.04.87 |
| 26 | Sebastian SILGUERO | 01.01.92 |
| - | Luciano VELLA | 13.04.81 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 5 | Walter ACEVEDO | 16.02.86 |
| 22 | Martin AGUIRRE | 14.09.81 |
| 14 | Adrian CIRIGLIANO | 24.01.92 |
| 37 | Mauro DIAZ | 10.03.91 |
| 32 | Matias KRANEVITTER | 21.05.93 |
| 10 | Manuel LANZINI | 15.02.93 |
| 28 | Cristian LEDESMA | 29.11.78 |
| 23 | Leonardo PONZIO | 29.01.82 |
| 16 | Ariel ROJAS | 16.01.86 |
| 8 | Carlos SANCHEZ (Uru) | 02.12.84 |
| 29 | Augusto SOLARI | 03.01.92 |
| 21 | Leonel VANGIONI | 05.05.87 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 9 | Rogelio FUNES MORI | 05.03.91 |
| 15 | Juan ITURBE | 04.06.93 |
| 33 | Carlos LUNA | 17.01.82 |
| 11 | Rodrigo MORA (Uru) | 29.10.87 |
| 7 | David TREZEGUET (Fra) | 15.10.77 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Daniel PASSARELLA | 25.05.53 |

## SAN LORENZO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 35 | Juan Eduardo FIGUEROA | 14.07.92 |
| 1 | Matias IBANEZ | 16.12.86 |
| 34 | Ezequiel MASTROLIA | 25.03.91 |
| 22 | Pablo MIGLIORE | 27.01.82 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 31 | Alejandro ALEMANDI | 17.05.90 |
| 25 | Pablo ALVARADO | 27.02.86 |
| 2 | Mauro CETTO | 14.04.82 |
| 41 | Lucas CHAPARRO | 05.03.92 |
| 6 | Santiago GENTILETTI | 09.01.85 |
| 39 | Walter KANNEMANN | 14.03.91 |
| 37 | Abel MASUERO | 06.04.88 |
| 13 | Fernando MEZA | 21.03.90 |
| 27 | Jose Luis PALOMINO | 05.01.90 |
| 4 | Gonzalo PROSPERI | 28.09.85 |
| 3 | German VOBORIL | 05.05.87 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 19 | Luis AGUIAR (Uru) | 17.11.85 |
| 7 | Julio BUFFARINI | 18.08.88 |
| 8 | Enzo KALINSKI | 10.03.87 |
| 5 | Juan MERCIER | 02.02.80 |
| 29 | Claudio MIRABAJE (Uru) | 06.03.89 |
| 28 | Ignacio PIATTI | 04.02.85 |
| 24 | Julio RAMIREZ | 25.05.92 |
| 23 | Salvador REYNOSO | 12.10.87 |
| 10 | Leandro ROMAGNOLI | 17.03.81 |
| 33 | Alan RUIZ | 19.08.93 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 14 | Fabian BORDAGARAY | 15.02.87 |
| 36 | Rodrigo CONTRERAS | 27.10.95 |
| 11 | Franco JARA | 15.07.88 |
| 9 | Denis STRACQUALURSI | 20.10.87 |
| 30 | Gonzalo VERON | 13.12.85 |
| 15 | Hector VILLALBA | 26.07.94 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Juan Antonio PIZZI (Spa) | 07.06.68 |

## SAN MARTIN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 27 | Luis ARDENTE | 17.09.81 |
| 12 | Leonardo CORTI | 29.01.81 |
| 1 | Luciano POCRNJIC | 04.08.81 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 16 | Francisco ALARCON (Chi) | 25.02.90 |
| 20 | Santiago HOYOS | 03.06.82 |
| 13 | Lucas LANDA | 03.04.86 |
| 6 | Damian LEDESMA | 21.05.82 |
| 3 | Emanuel MAS | 15.01.89 |
| 4 | Juan MATTIA | 24.06.88 |
| 34 | Ezequiel MICHELI | 29.04.91 |
| 33 | Maximiliano OLIVA | 24.03.90 |
| 21 | Matias RUDLER | 25.04.88 |
| 2 | Diego SOSA | 17.04.80 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 19 | Facundo AFFRANCHINO | 09.02.90 |
| 5 | Reinaldo ALDERETE | 17.01.83 |
| 23 | Cristian ALVAREZ | 09.01.78 |
| 15 | Mauro BOGADO | 31.05.85 |
| 26 | Maximiliano BUSTOS | 05.01.82 |
| 14 | Pablo CANTERO | 03.10.77 |
| 17 | Damian CANUTO | 17.04.85 |
| 30 | Franco LEPE | 17.03.93 |
| 10 | Federico POGGI | 10.01.82 |
| 31 | Lucas SALAS | 28.09.94 |
| 22 | Leandro VELAZQUEZ | 10.05.89 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 25 | Gaston CAPRARI | 17.02.85 |
| 28 | Diego GARCIA | 21.06.84 |
| 8 | Jorge LUNA | 14.12.86 |
| 11 | Humberto OSORIO (Col) | 24.06.88 |
| 9 | Sebastian PENCO | 22.09.83 |
| 18 | Claudio RIANO | 16.08.88 |
| 7 | Guillermo SUAREZ | 09.06.85 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Gabriel PERRONE | 14.04.65 |

## TIGRE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 32 | Damian ALBIL | 09.12.79 |
| 12 | Agustin COUSILLAS | 19.04.90 |
| 1 | Javier GARCIA | 29.01.87 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 2 | Alejandro DONATTI | 24.10.86 |
| 21 | Mariano ECHEVERRIA | 27.05.81 |
| 20 | Matias ESCOBAR | 21.04.82 |
| 13 | Erik GODOY | 16.08.93 |
| 3 | Javier MALAGUENO | 27.10.82 |
| 27 | Nicolas MARTINEZ | 20.06.84 |
| 22 | Lucas ORBAN | 03.02.89 |
| 23 | Norberto PAPARATTO | 03.01.84 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 19 | Ruben BOTTA | 31.01.90 |
| 25 | Nelson CARRASCO | 14.02.89 |
| 5 | Diego CASTANO | 08.06.79 |
| 14 | Diego CISTERNA | 22.08.81 |
| 15 | Angel DIAZ | 26.03.81 |
| 4 | Diego FERREIRA (Uru) | 04.05.85 |
| 8 | Martin GALMARINI | 28.02.82 |
| 31 | Kevin ITABEL | 20.08.93 |
| 33 | Cristian IVANOBSKY | 11.02.90 |
| 11 | Ramiro LEONE | 01.06.77 |
| 26 | Lucas MENOSSI | 11.07.92 |
| 6 | Gabriel PENALBA | 23.09.84 |
| 17 | Sebastian RUSCULLEDA | 29.04.85 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 16 | Diego FTACLA | 17.06.92 |
| 28 | Lucas JANSON | 16.08.94 |
| 18 | Leandro LEGUIZAMON | 04.12.88 |
| 9 | Ezequiel MAGGIOLO | 15.06.77 |
| 10 | Matias PEREZ GARCIA | 13.10.84 |
| 24 | Federico SANTANDER (Par) | 04.06.91 |
| 7 | Agustin TORASSA | 20.10.88 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Nestor GOROSITO | 14.05.64 |

## UNION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 27 | Nicolas CAPRIO | 26.05.89 |
| 1 | Oscar LIMIA | 16.07.75 |
| 22 | Pablo PERAFAN | 31.01.87 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 14 | Juan Pablo AVENDANO | 10.05.82 |
| 26 | Diego BARISONE | 29.05.89 |
| 4 | Bruno BIANCHI | 17.02.89 |
| 3 | Emanuel BRITEZ | 26.03.92 |
| 6 | Nicolas CORREA (Uru) | 25.12.83 |
| 2 | Guillermo COSARO | 07.07.89 |
| 19 | Mauro MAIDANA | 12.07.90 |
| 29 | Daniel PEREZ | 23.02.87 |
| 20 | Santiago ZURBRIGGEN | 27.02.90 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 8 | Brahian ALEMAN (Uru) | 23.12.89 |
| 15 | Pablo BRUNA | 07.08.90 |
| 10 | Juan Ignacio CAVALLARO | 28.06.94 |
| 18 | Matias DONNET | 18.04.80 |
| 25 | Sergio FERNANDEZ | 08.07.87 |
| 23 | Diego GALVAN | 19.03.82 |
| 9 | Damian LIZIO | 30.06.89 |
| 24 | Ricardo MAZACOTTE (Par) | 09.01.85 |
| 5 | Pablo MIGUEZ (Uru) | 19.06.87 |
| 7 | Fausto MONTERO | 22.10.88 |
| 16 | Emanuel MORENO | 19.03.90 |
| 17 | Marcelo SARMIENTO | 24.08.79 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| - | Ricardo ACOSTA | 22.06.92 |
| 28 | Federico CHIAPELLO | 01.09.93 |
| 21 | Andres FRANZOIA | 21.10.85 |
| 11 | Diego JARA | 02.01.83 |
| 12 | Pablo MAGNIN | 25.04.90 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Facundo SAVA | 07.03.74 |

## VELEZ SARSFIELD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 25 | Alan AGUERRE | 23.08.90 |
| 1 | Marcelo MONTOYA | 23.01.83 |
| 13 | Carlos SOSA (Uru) | 19.08.86 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 30 | Sebastian ALVAREZ | 30.11.92 |
| 15 | Mariano BITTOLO | 24.04.90 |
| 6 | Sebastian DOMINGUEZ | 29.07.80 |
| 27 | Lautaro GIANETTI | 13.11.93 |
| 22 | Emanuel OLIVERA | 02.04.90 |
| 3 | Emiliano PAPA | 19.04.82 |
| 4 | Gino PERUZZI | 09.06.92 |
| 30 | Juan SABIA | 17.12.81 |
| 19 | Juan SILLS | 04.05.87 |
| 2 | Fernando TOBIO | 18.10.89 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 21 | Agustin ALLIONE | 28.10.94 |
| 24 | Ivan BELLA | 13.09.89 |
| 11 | Alejandro CABRAL | 11.09.87 |
| 18 | Francisco CERRO | 09.02.88 |
| 5 | Fabian CUBERO | 21.12.78 |
| 23 | Leandro DESABATO | 30.03.90 |
| 20 | Brian FERREIRA | 24.05.94 |
| 16 | Federico FREIRE | 06.11.90 |
| 8 | Fernando GAGO | 10.04.86 |
| 10 | Federico INSUA | 03.01.80 |
| 17 | Franco RAZZOTTI | 06.02.85 |
| 29 | Lucas ROMERO | 18.04.94 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 28 | Ramiro CASERES | 09.01.94 |
| 7 | Jonathan COPETE (Col) | 23.01.88 |
| 14 | Facundo FERREYRA | 14.03.91 |
| 12 | Lucas PRATTO | 04.06.88 |
| 9 | Ezequiel RESCALDANI | 11.06.92 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Ricardo GARECA | 10.02.58 |

# USA MLS 2013

## CHICAGO FIRE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 25 | Sean JOHNSON | 31.05.89 |
| 70 | Paolo TORNAGHI (Ita) | 21.06.88 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 6 | Jalil ANIBABA | 19.10.88 |
| 22 | Austin BERRY | 06.10.88 |
| 23 | Arne FRIEDRICH (Ger) | 29.05.79 |
| 99 | Hunter JUMPER | 28.02.89 |
| 18 | Steven KINNEY | 28.10.87 |
| 13 | Gonzalo SEGARES (CR) | 13.10.82 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 71 | ALEX (Bra) | 15.12.88 |
| 19 | Corben BONE | 16.09.88 |
| 8 | Dilly DUKA | 15.09.89 |
| 16 | Brendan KING | 05.02.90 |
| 20 | Jeff LARENTOWICZ | 05.08.83 |
| 26 | Joel LINDPERE (Est) | 05.10.81 |
| 11 | Daniel PALADINI | 11.11.84 |
| 12 | Logan PAUSE | 22.08.81 |
| 27 | Victor PINEDA | 15.03.93 |
| 15 | Wells THOMPSON | 25.11.83 |
| 21 | Michael VIDEIRA | 06.01.86 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 24 | Quincy AMARIKWA | 29.10.87 |
| 94 | Kellen GULLEY | 06.04.94 |
| 7 | Sherjill MacDONALD (Hol) | 20.11.84 |
| 14 | Patrick NYARKO (Gha) | 15.01.86 |
| 17 | Chris ROLFE | 17.01.83 |
| 29 | Maicon SANTOS (Bra) | 18.04.84 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Frank KLOPAS | 01.09.66 |

## CHIVAS USA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Dan KENNEDY | 22.07.82 |
| 24 | Patrick McLAIN | 22.08.88 |
| 28 | Tim MELIA | 15.05.86 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 5 | Carlos BORJA | 18.01.88 |
| 2 | Bobby BURLING | 15.10.84 |
| 3 | Mario DE LUNA (Mex) | 05.01.88 |
| 13 | Ante JAZIC (Can) | 26.02.76 |
| 25 | Steve PURDY (EIS) | 05.02.85 |
| 23 | Joaquin VELAZQUEZ | 11.09.75 |
| 4 | Walter VILCHEZ (Per) | 20.02.82 |
| 19 | Jorge VILLAFANA | 16.09.89 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 20 | Carlos ALVAREZ | 12.11.90 |
| - | Daniel ANTUNEZ | 10.02.86 |
| 15 | Eric AVILA | 24.11.87 |
| 10 | Miller BOLANOS (Ecu) | 01.06.90 |
| 16 | Laurent COURTOIS (Fra) | 11.09.78 |
| 12 | Marco DELGADO | 16.05.95 |
| 31 | Marvin IRAHETA (EIS) | 31.05.92 |
| 8 | Edgar MEJIA (Mex) | 17.07.88 |
| 30 | Oswaldo MINDA (Ecu) | 26.07.83 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 11 | Juan AGUDELO | 23.11.92 |
| 7 | Tristan BOWEN | 30.01.91 |
| 14 | Giovani CASILLAS (Mex) | 04.01.94 |
| 27 | Jose CORREA (Col) | 20.07.92 |
| - | Jose Manuel RIVERA (Mex) | 16.06.86 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Jose Luis Sanchez SOLA (Mex) | 31.01.59 |

## COLORADO RAPIDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 21 | Steward CEUS (Hai) | 26.03.87 |
| 31 | Clint IRWIN | 01.04.89 |
| 18 | Matt PICKENS | 05.04.82 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 5 | Diego CALDERON (Ecu) | 26.10.86 |
| 29 | Kory KINDLE | 28.08.91 |
| 15 | Chris KLUTE | 05.03.90 |
| 3 | Drew MOOR | 15.01.84 |
| 6 | Anthony WALLACE | 26.01.89 |
| 22 | Marvell WYNNE | 08.05.86 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 28 | Davy ARMSTRONG | 03.11.91 |
| 14 | Tony CASCIO | 28.03.90 |
| 23 | Jaime CASTRILLON (Col) | 05.04.83 |
| 16 | Atiba HARRIS (StK) | 09.01.85 |
| 2 | Nick LaBROCCA | 04.12.84 |
| 25 | Pablo MASTROENI | 29.08.76 |
| 11 | Brian MULLAN | 23.04.78 |
| 27 | Shane O'NEILL | 02.09.93 |
| 8 | Dillon POWERS | 14.02.91 |
| 10 | Martin RIVERO (Arg) | 13.11.89 |
| 17 | Dillon SERNA | 25.03.94 |
| 20 | Jamie SMITH (Sco) | 20.11.80 |
| 24 | Nathan STURGIS | 06.07.87 |
| 12 | Hendry THOMAS (Hon) | 23.02.85 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 19 | Andre AKPAN | 09.12.87 |
| 26 | Deshorn BROWN (Jam) | 22.12.90 |
| 9 | Edson BUDDLE | 21.05.81 |
| 99 | Charles ELOUNDOU (Cam) | 04.12.94 |
| 7 | Kevin HARBOTTLE (Chl) | 08.06.90 |
| 13 | Kamani HILL | 28.12.85 |
| - | Danny MWANGA (DRC) | 17.07.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Oscar PAREJA (Col) | 10.08.68 |

## COLUMBUS CREW

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 30 | Andy GRUENEBAUM | 30.12.82 |
| 28 | Matt LAMPSON | 06.09.89 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 21 | Chad BARSON | 25.02.91 |
| 22 | Drew BECKIE (Can) | 30.09.90 |
| 16 | Eric GEHRIG | 25.12.87 |
| 4 | GLAUBER (Bra) | 05.08.83 |
| 31 | Kyle HYLAND | 01.03.91 |
| 14 | Chad MARSHALL | 22.08.84 |
| 5 | Danny O'ROURKE | 31.05.83 |
| 24 | Agustin VIANA | 23.08.83 |
| 2 | Tyson WAHL | 23.02.84 |
| 3 | Josh WILLIAMS | 18.04.88 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 7 | Bernardo ANOR (Ven) | 24.05.88 |
| 13 | Ethan FINLAY | 06.08.90 |
| 12 | Eddie GAVEN | 25.10.86 |
| 23 | Kevan GEORGE (T&T) | 30.01.90 |
| 11 | Dominic ODURO (Gha) | 13.08.85 |
| 8 | Matias SANCHEZ (Arg) | 18.08.87 |
| 32 | Shawn SLOAN | 24.11.90 |
| 6 | Tony TCHANI (Cam) | 13.04.89 |
| 20 | Wil TRAPP | 15.01.93 |
| 19 | Konrad WARZYCHA (Pol) | 14.02.89 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 25 | Jairo ARRIETA (CR) | 25.08.83 |
| 26 | Ryan FINLEY | 27.03.91 |
| 33 | Federico HIGUAIN (Arg) | 25.10.84 |
| 27 | Aaron HORTON | 19.05.92 |
| 9 | Justin MERAM | 04.12.88 |
| 18 | Aaron SCHOENFELD | 17.04.90 |
| 17 | Ben SPEAS | 17.01.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Robert WARZYCHA (Pol) | 20.08.63 |

## DALLAS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Raul FERNANDEZ (Per) | 06.10.85 |
| 40 | Richard SANCHEZ (Mex) | 05.04.94 |
| 18 | Chris SEITZ | 12.03.87 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 5 | Jair BENITEZ (Col) | 11.01.79 |
| 24 | Matt HEDGES | 01.04.90 |
| 3 | Ugo IHEMELU | 03.04.83 |
| 14 | George JOHN | 20.03.87 |
| 22 | Stephen KEEL | 11.04.83 |
| 17 | Zach LOYD | 18.07.87 |
| 31 | MICHEL (Bra) | 09.06.81 |
| 21 | London WOODBERRY | 19.05.91 |
| - | Walker ZIMMERMAN | 19.05.93 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 23 | Kellyn ACOSTA | 24.07.95 |
| 10 | David FERREIRA (Col) | 09.08.79 |
| 6 | JACKSON (Bra) | 03.06.88 |
| 4 | Andrew JACOBSON | 25.09.85 |
| 8 | Peter LUCCIN (Fra) | 09.04.79 |
| 28 | Victor ULLOA | 04.03.92 |
| 16 | Bobby WARSHAW | 21.11.88 |
| 26 | Je-Vaughn WATSON (Jam) | 22.10.83 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 13 | Bradlee BALADEZ | 08.08.91 |
| 11 | Fabian CASTILLO (Col) | 17.06.92 |
| 33 | Kenny COOPER | 21.10.84 |
| 29 | Eric HASSLI (Fra) | 03.05.81 |
| 7 | Blas PEREZ (Pan) | 13.03.81 |
| 32 | Jonathan TOP | 26.01.93 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Schellas HYNDMAN | 04.11.51 |

## DC UNITED

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 50 | Andrew DYKSTRA | 02.01.86 |
| - | Bill HAMID | 25.11.90 |
| 31 | Joe WILLIS | 10.08.88 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 33 | Taylor KEMP | 23.07.90 |
| 22 | Chris KORB | 08.10.87 |
| 5 | Dejan JAKOVIC (Can) | 16.07.85 |
| 4 | Brandon McDONALD | 16.01.86 |
| 2 | James RILEY | 27.10.82 |
| 3 | Robbie RUSSELL | 16.07.79 |
| 15 | Ethan WHITE | 01.01.91 |
| 21 | Daniel WOOLARD | 22.05.84 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 12 | Raphael AUGUSTO (Bra) | 06.03.91 |
| 18 | Nick DELEON | 17.07.90 |
| 7 | Dwayne DE ROSARIO (Can) | 15.05.78 |
| 23 | Perry KITCHEN | 29.02.92 |
| 24 | Lewis NEAL (Eng) | 14.07.81 |
| 28 | Kyle PORTER (Can) | 19.01.90 |
| 30 | Marcos SANCHEZ (Pan) | 23.12.89 |
| 11 | Marcelo SARAGOSA (Bra) | 22.01.82 |
| 17 | Conor SHANOSKY | 13.12.91 |
| 8 | John THORRINGTON | 17.10.79 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 6 | Syamsir ALAM (Ins) | 07.06.92 |
| 26 | Lionard PAJOY (Col) | 07.06.81 |
| 13 | Chris PONTIUS | 12.05.87 |
| 9 | RAFAEL (Bra) | 13.07.92 |
| 20 | Carlos RUIZ (Gua) | 15.09.79 |
| 29 | Michael SEATON (Jam) | 01.05.96 |
| 16 | Casey TOWNSEND | 07.07.89 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Ben OLSEN | 03.05.77 |

## HOUSTON DYNAMO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 24 | Tyler DERIC | 30.08.88 |
| 1 | Tally HALL | 12.05.85 |
| 28 | Erich MARSCHEIDER (Aut) | 05.01.93 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 26 | Corey ASHE | 14.03.86 |
| 32 | Bobby BOSWELL | 15.03.83 |
| 2 | Eric BRUNNER | 02.02.86 |
| 5 | Warren CREAVALLE | 14.08.90 |
| 8 | Kofi SARKODIE | 22.03.91 |
| 4 | Jermaine TAYLOR (Jam) | 14.01.85 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 23 | Giles BARNES (Eng) | 05.08.88 |
| 17 | Luiz CAMARGO (Bra) | 04.05.87 |
| 13 | Ricardo CLARK | 10.02.83 |
| 11 | Brad DAVIS | 08.11.81 |
| 19 | Alex DIXON | 07.02.90 |
| 20 | Andrew DRIVER | 20.11.87 |
| 27 | Oscar Boniek GARCIA (Hon) | 04.09.84 |
| 16 | Adam MOFFAT (Sco) | 15.05.86 |
| 22 | Brian OWNBY | 16.07.90 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 12 | Will BRUIN | 24.10.89 |
| 3 | Calen CARR | 04.10.82 |
| 25 | Brian CHING | 24.05.78 |
| 7 | Omar CUMMINGS (Jam) | 13.07.82 |
| 14 | Jason JOHNSON (Jam) | 09.10.90 |
| 9 | Bryan SALAZAR | 17.10.94 |
| 15 | Cam WEAVER | 10.06.83 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Dominic KINNEAR | 26.07.67 |

## LA GALAXY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 23 | Carlo CUDICINI (Ita) | 06.09.73 |
| 1 | Brian PERK | 21.07.89 |
| 12 | Brian ROWE | 16.11.88 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 20 | AJ DE LA GARZA | 04.11.87 |
| 2 | Todd DUNIVANT | 26.12.80 |
| 5 | Sean FRANKLIN | 21.03.85 |
| 17 | Bryan GAUL | 10.08.89 |
| 4 | Omar GONZALEZ | 11.10.88 |
| 22 | LEONARDO (Bra) | 08.02.88 |
| 21 | Tommy MEYER | 20.03.90 |
| 28 | Kofi OPARE (Can) | 12.10.90 |
| 36 | Oscar SORTO | 08.08.94 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 11 | Colin CLARK | 11.04.84 |
| 35 | Greg COCHRANE | 01.11.90 |
| 25 | Rafael GARCIA | 19.12.88 |
| 16 | Hector JIMENEZ | 03.11.88 |
| 19 | JUNINHO (Bra) | 08.01.89 |
| 18 | Mike MAGEE | 02.09.84 |
| 30 | Andy RIEMER | 21.01.91 |
| 8 | Marcelo SARVAS (Bra) | 16.10.81 |
| 26 | Michael STEPHENS | 03.04.89 |
| 34 | Kenney WALKER | 23.12.88 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 10 | Landon DONOVAN | 04.03.82 |
| - | Chandler HOFFMAN | 17.08.90 |
| 7 | Robbie KEANE (Rol) | 08.07.80 |
| 32 | Jack McBEAN | 15.12.94 |
| 27 | Charlie RUGG | 02.10.90 |
| 33 | Jose VILLARREAL | 10.09.93 |
| 29 | Gyasi ZARDES | 02.09.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Bruce ARENA | 21.09.51 |

## MONTREAL IMPACT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 30 | Evan BUSH | 06.03.86 |
| 1 | Troy PERKINS | 29.07.81 |
| 90 | Brad STUVER | 16.04.91 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 5 | Jeb BROVSKY | 03.12.88 |
| 6 | Hassoun CAMARA (Fra) | 03.02.84 |
| 13 | Matteo FERRARI (Ita) | 05.12.79 |
| 17 | Dennis IAPICHINO (Swi) | 27.07.90 |
| 16 | Calum MALLACE (Sco) | 01.10.90 |
| 14 | Alessandro NESTA (Ita) | 19.03.76 |
| 34 | Karl OUIMETTE (Can) | 18.06.92 |
| 2 | Nelson RIVAS (Col) | 25.03.83 |
| 51 | Maxim TISSOT (Can) | 13.04.92 |
| 3 | Zarek VALENTIN | 06.10.91 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 22 | Davy ARNAUD | 22.06.80 |
| 8 | Patrice BERNIER (Can) | 23.09.79 |
| 55 | Wandrille LEFEVRE (Fra) | 17.12.89 |
| 21 | Justin MAPP | 18.10.84 |
| 7 | Felipe MARTINS (Bra) | 30.09.90 |
| 11 | Sanna NYASSI (Gam) | 31.01.89 |
| 31 | Andrea PISANU (Ita) | 01.07.82 |
| 19 | Blake SMITH | 17.01.91 |
| 28 | Sinisa UBIPARIPOVIC (Bos) | 25.08.83 |
| 18 | Collen WARNER | 24.06.88 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 9 | Marco DI VAIO (Ita) | 15.07.76 |
| 15 | Andres ROMERO (Arg) | 29.10.89 |
| 33 | Andrew WENGER | 25.12.90 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Marco SCHALLIBAUM (Swi) | 06.04.62 |

## NEW ENGLAND REV

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Matt REIS | 28.03.75 |
| 22 | Bobby SHUTTLEWORTH | 13.05.87 |
| 36 | Luis SOFFNER | 15.01.90 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 30 | Kevin ALSTON | 05.05.88 |
| 25 | Darrius BARNES | 24.12.86 |
| 16 | Bilal DUCKETT | 09.01.89 |
| 2 | Andrew FARRELL | 02.04.92 |
| 23 | Jose GONCALVES (Por) | 17.09.85 |
| 15 | Stephen McCARTHY | 21.07.88 |
| 3 | Tyler POLAK | 13.05.92 |
| 5 | AJ SOARES | 28.11.88 |
| 8 | Chris TIERNEY | 09.01.86 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 6 | Scott CALDWELL | 15.03.91 |
| 4 | Kalifa CISSE (Mli) | 09.01.84 |
| 12 | Andy DORMAN (Wal) | 01.05.82 |
| 13 | Ryan GUY (Gum) | 05.09.85 |
| 24 | Lee NGUYEN | 07.10.86 |
| 17 | Sainey NYASSI (Gam) | 31.01.88 |
| 11 | Kelyn ROWE | 02.12.91 |
| 19 | Clyde SIMMS | 21.08.82 |
| 33 | Donnie SMITH | 15.01.90 |
| 7 | Juan TOJA (Col) | 24.05.85 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 9 | Chad BARRETT | 30.04.85 |
| 27 | Jerry BENGTSON (Hon) | 08.04.87 |
| 14 | Diego FAGUNDEZ (Uru) | 14.02.95 |
| 18 | Matt HORTH | 03.05.89 |
| 92 | Dimitry IMBONGO (Fra) | 28.03.90 |
| 39 | Saer SENE (Fra) | 04.11.86 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Jay HEAPS | 02.08.76 |

## NEW YORK RED BULLS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 24 | Santiago CASTANO | 14.04.95 |
| 18 | Ryan MEARA | 15.11.90 |
| 31 | Luis ROBLES | 11.05.84 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 25 | Brandon BARKLAGE | 02.11.86 |
| 6 | DIGAO (Bra) | 14.10.85 |
| 5 | Markus HOLGERSSON (Swe) | 12.04.85 |
| 27 | Kosuke KIMURA (Jap) | 14.05.84 |
| 16 | Connor LADE | 16.11.89 |
| 7 | Roy MILLER (CR) | 24.11.84 |
| 4 | Jamison OLAVE (Col) | 21.04.81 |
| 3 | Heath PEARCE | 13.08.84 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 12 | Eric ALEXANDER | 14.04.88 |
| 23 | Michael BUSTAMANTE (Col) | 21.09.89 |
| 17 | Tim CAHILL (NZ) | 06.12.79 |
| 2 | Ian CHRISTIANSON | 06.03.91 |
| 21 | Ruben IZQUIERDO (Spa) | 24.06.92 |
| 8 | JUNINHO Pernambucano (Bra) | 30.01.75 |
| 11 | Dax McCARTY | 30.04.87 |
| 10 | Lloyd SAM (Eng) | 27.09.84 |
| 22 | Jonny STEELE (NI) | 07.02.86 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 9 | Fabian ESPINDOLA (Arg) | 04.05.85 |
| 14 | Thierry HENRY (Fra) | 17.08.77 |
| 29 | Josue MARTINEZ (CR) | 25.03.90 |
| 19 | Amando MORENO | 10.09.95 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Mike PETKE | 30.01.76 |

## PHILADELPHIA UNION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 32 | Chase HARRISON | 02.04.84 |
| 1 | Chris KONOPKA | 14.04.85 |
| 18 | Zac MacMATH | 07.08.91 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 3 | Chris ALBRIGHT | 14.01.79 |
| 28 | Ray GADDIS | 13.01.90 |
| 31 | Jeff PARKE | 23.03.82 |
| 4 | Bakary SOUMARE (Mli) | 09.11.85 |
| 2 | Carlos VALDES (Col) | 22.05.85 |
| 25 | Sheanon WILLIAMS | 17.03.90 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| - | Freddy ADU | 02.06.89 |
| 7 | Brian CARROLL | 20.07.81 |
| 44 | Danny CRUZ | 03.01.90 |
| 26 | Keon DANIEL (T&T) | 16.01.87 |
| 15 | Gabriel FARFAN | 23.06.88 |
| 21 | Michael FARFAN | 23.06.88 |
| 5 | Greg JORDAN | 05.04.90 |
| 13 | Michael LAHOUD | 15.09.86 |
| 20 | Jimmy McLAUGHLIN | 30.04.93 |
| 14 | Amobi OKUGO | 13.03.91 |
| 10 | Roger TORRES (Col) | 13.07.91 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 6 | Conor CASEY | 25.07.81 |
| 23 | Cristhian HERNANDEZ (Mex) | 30.10.93 |
| 29 | Antoine HOPPENOT (Fra) | 23.11.90 |
| 11 | Sebastien LE TOUX (Fra) | 10.01.84 |
| 9 | Jack McINERNEY | 05.08.92 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | John HACKWORTH | 05.02.70 |

## PORTLAND TIMBERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 90 | Jake GLEESON (NZ) | 26.06.90 |
| 30 | Milos KOCIC (Ser) | 04.06.85 |
| 1 | Donovan RICKETTS (Jam) | 07.06.77 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 98 | Mamadou DANSO (Gam) | 27.04.83 |
| 5 | Michael HARRINGTON | 24.01.86 |
| 12 | David HORST | 25.10.85 |
| 35 | Andrew JEAN-BAPTISTE | 16.06.92 |
| 18 | Ryan KAWULOK | 29.12.89 |
| 2 | Ryan MILLER | 14.12.84 |
| 33 | Hanyer MOSQUERA (Col) | 15.01.87 |
| - | Mikael SILVESTRE (Fra) | 09.08.77 |
| 25 | Dylan TUCKER-GANGNES | 30.09.90 |
| 22 | Rodney WALLACE (CR) | 17.06.88 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 11 | Kalif ALHASSAN (Gha) | 15.10.90 |
| 21 | Diego CHARA (Col) | 05.04.86 |
| 15 | Steven EVANS | 19.09.91 |
| 13 | Jack JEWSBURY | 13.04.81 |
| 4 | Will JOHNSON (Can) | 26.11.84 |
| 6 | Darlington NAGBE (Lbr) | 19.07.90 |
| 17 | Michael NANCHOFF | 24.09.88 |
| 8 | Diego VALERI (Arg) | 01.05.86 |
| 14 | Ben ZEMANSKI | 12.05.88 |
| 7 | Sal ZIZZO | 03.04.87 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 19 | Bright DIKE (Ngr) | 02.02.87 |
| 9 | Ryan JOHNSON (Jam) | 26.11.84 |
| - | Frederic PIQUIONNE (Mar) | 08.12.78 |
| 16 | Brent RICHARDS | 20.05.90 |
| 24 | Sebastian RINCON (Col) | 14.01.94 |
| 20 | Jose Adolfo VALENCIA (Col) | 18.12.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Caleb PORTER | 18.02.75 |

## REAL SALT LAKE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 24 | Jeff ATTINELLA | 29.09.88 |
| 1 | Lalo FERNANDEZ (Mex) | 16.12.92 |
| 18 | Nick RIMANDO | 17.06.79 |
| 45 | Josh SAUNDERS | 02.03.81 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 2 | Tony BELTRAN | 11.10.87 |
| 6 | Nat BORCHERS | 13.04.81 |
| 4 | Aaron MAUND | 19.09.90 |
| 7 | Lovel PALMER (Jam) | 30.08.84 |
| 16 | Carlos SALCEDO (Mex) | 29.09.93 |
| 28 | Chris SCHULER | 06.09.87 |
| 3 | Kwame WATSON-SIRIBOE | 13.11.86 |
| 17 | Chris WINGERT | 16.06.82 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 14 | Yordany ALVAREZ (Cub) | 24.05.85 |
| 5 | Kyle BECKERMAN | 23.04.82 |
| 21 | Luis GIL | 14.11.93 |
| 20 | Ned GRABAVOY | 01.07.83 |
| 22 | Cole GROSSMAN | 10.04.89 |
| 29 | Kenny MANSALLY (Gam) | 27.01.89 |
| 19 | Enzo MARTINEZ (Uru) | 29.09.90 |
| 11 | Javier MORALES (Arg) | 01.10.80 |
| 23 | Khari STEPHENSON (Jam) | 18.01.81 |
| 27 | John STERTZER | 04.10.90 |
| 26 | Sebastian VELASQUEZ (Col) | 11.02.91 |
| 25 | David VIANA (Por) | 22.01.92 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 10 | Robbie FINDLEY | 04.08.85 |
| 13 | Olmes GARCIA (Col) | 21.10.92 |
| 8 | Joao PLATA (Ecu) | 01.03.92 |
| 15 | Alvaro SABORIO (CR) | 25.03.82 |
| 49 | Devon SANDOVAL | 16.06.91 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Jason KREIS | 29.12.72 |

## SAN JOSE E'QUAKES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | David BINGHAM | 19.10.89 |
| 18 | Jon BUSCH | 18.08.76 |
| 13 | Evan NEWTON | 01.04.88 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 23 | Nana ATTAKORA | 27.03.89 |
| 33 | Steven BEITASHOUR | 01.02.87 |
| 26 | Victor BERNARDEZ (Hon) | 24.05.82 |
| 12 | Ramiro CORRALES | 12.03.77 |
| 3 | Dan GARGAN | 14.12.82 |
| 2 | Ty HARDEN | 06.03.84 |
| 21 | Jason HERNANDEZ | 26.08.83 |
| - | Peter McGLYNN (Rol) | 02.05.89 |
| 15 | Justin MORROW | 04.10.87 |
| - | Tommy MULLER | 04.04.91 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 30 | Rafael BACA (Mex) | 11.09.89 |
| 11 | Mehdi BALLOUCHY (Mor) | 06.04.83 |
| 81 | Marvin CHAVEZ (Hon) | 03.11.83 |
| 4 | Sam CRONIN | 12.12.86 |
| - | Dan DELGADO (Mex) | 17.09.91 |
| - | Sam GARZA | 17.10.89 |
| 5 | Brad RING | 07.04.87 |
| 6 | Shea SALINAS | 24.06.86 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 27 | Cesar DIAZ PIZARRO | 16.09.90 |
| 24 | Alan GORDON | 16.10.81 |
| 16 | Steven LENHART | 28.08.86 |
| 9 | Mike FUCITO | 29.03.86 |
| 8 | Chris WONDOLOWSKI | 28.01.83 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Frank YALLOP (Can) | 04.04.64 |

## SEATTLE SOUNDERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 29 | Josh FORD | 06.11.87 |
| 1 | Michael GSPURNING (Aut) | 02.05.81 |
| 24 | Marcus HAHNEMANN | 15.06.72 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 8 | Marc BURCH | 07.05.84 |
| 30 | Andrew DURAN | 26.09.89 |
| 12 | Leonardo GONZALEZ (CR) | 21.11.80 |
| 34 | Jhon Kennedy HURTADO (Col) | 16.05.84 |
| 4 | Patrick IANNI | 15.06.85 |
| 5 | Adam JOHANSSON (Swe) | 21.02.83 |
| 20 | Zach SCOTT | 02.07.80 |
| 45 | Dylan REMICK | 09.05.91 |
| 50 | Djimi TRAORE (Fra) | 01.03.80 |
| 2 | DeAndre YEDLIN | 09.07.93 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 6 | Osvaldo ALONSO (Cub) | 11.11.85 |
| 23 | Servando CARRASCO | 13.08.88 |
| 14 | Alex CASKEY | 22.07.88 |
| 3 | Brad EVANS | 20.04.85 |
| - | Shalrie JOSEPH (Grn) | 24.05.78 |
| 15 | Mario MARTINEZ (Hon) | 30.07.89 |
| 27 | Lamar NEAGLE | 07.05.87 |
| 10 | Mauro ROSALES (Arg) | 24.02.81 |
| 25 | Andy ROSE (Aus) | 13.02.90 |
| 13 | Christian TIFFERT (Ger) | 18.02.82 |
| 11 | Steve ZAKUANI (DRC) | 09.02.88 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 16 | David ESTRADA | 04.02.88 |
| 7 | Eddie JOHNSON | 31.03.84 |
| 26 | Sammy OCHOA | 04.09.86 |
| 19 | Babayele SODADE (Can) | 26.07.90 |
| 22 | Eriq ZAVALETA | 02.08.92 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Sigi SCHMID (Ger) | 20.03.53 |

## SPORTING KANSAS CITY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 21 | Jon KEMPIN | 08.04.93 |
| 18 | Eric KRONBERG | 07.06.83 |
| 1 | Jimmy NIELSEN (Den) | 06.08.77 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 5 | Matt BESLER | 11.02.87 |
| 78 | Aurelien COLLIN (Fra) | 08.03.86 |
| 4 | Kevin ELLIS | 30.06.91 |
| 31 | Josh GARDNER | 14.09.82 |
| 24 | Mechack JEROME (Hai) | 21.04.90 |
| 27 | Kyle MILLER | 12.05.89 |
| 7 | Chance MYERS | 07.12.87 |
| 13 | Lawrence OLUM (Ken) | 10.07.84 |
| 3 | Ike OPARA | 21.02.89 |
| 15 | Seth SINOVIC | 28.01.87 |
| 2 | Yann SONGO'O (Cam) | 19.11.91 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 11 | Bobby CONVEY | 27.05.83 |
| 25 | Christian DUKE | 05.06.91 |
| 10 | Benny FEILHABER | 19.01.85 |
| 19 | Peterson JOSEPH (Hai) | 24.04.90 |
| 12 | Mikey LOPEZ | 20.02.93 |
| 6 | Paulo NAGAMURA (Bra) | 02.03.83 |
| 37 | Jacob PETERSON | 27.01.86 |
| 20 | Oriol ROSELL (Spa) | 07.07.92 |
| 88 | Michael THOMAS | 08.03.88 |
| 8 | Graham ZUSI | 18.08.86 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 16 | Claudio BIELER (Arg) | 01.03.84 |
| 9 | Teal BUNBURY | 27.02.90 |
| 14 | Dom DWYER (Eng) | 30.07.90 |
| 22 | Soony SAAD | 17.08.92 |
| 17 | CJ SAPONG | 27.12.88 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Peter VERMES | 21.11.66 |

## TORONTO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| - | Joe BENDIK | 25.04.89 |
| 24 | Stefan FREI (Swi) | 20.04.86 |
| 40 | Quillan ROBERTS (Can) | 13.09.94 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| - | Gale AGBOSSOUMONDE | 17.11.91 |
| - | Danny CALIFF | 17.03.80 |
| 27 | Richard ECKERSLEY (Eng) | 12.03.89 |
| 2 | Logan EMORY | 10.01.88 |
| 25 | Jeremy HALL | 11.09.88 |
| 4 | Doneil HENRY (Can) | 20.04.93 |
| 5 | Ashtone MORGAN (Can) | 09.02.91 |
| 48 | Darren O'DEA (Rol) | 04.02.87 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 23 | Terry DUNFIELD (Can) | 20.02.82 |
| - | Hogan EPHRAIM (Eng) | 31.03.88 |
| 19 | Reggie LAMBE (Ber) | 04.02.91 |
| 11 | Luis SILVA | 10.12.88 |
| 15 | Matt STINSON (Can) | 09.09.92 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| - | Justin BRAUN | 31.03.87 |
| - | Rob EARNSHAW (Wal) | 06.04.81 |
| 14 | Danny KOEVERMANS (Hol) | 01.11.78 |
| 32 | Andrew WIEDEMAN | 22.08.89 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Ryan NELSEN (NZ) | 18.10.77 |

## VANCOUVER W'CAPS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GOALKEEPERS** | | |
| 1 | Joe CANNON | 01.01.75 |
| 18 | Brad KNIGHTON | 06.02.85 |
| 39 | Simon THOMAS (Can) | 12.04.90 |
| **DEFENDERS** | | |
| 6 | Jay DEMERIT | 04.12.79 |
| 2 | Jordan HARVEY | 28.01.84 |
| 32 | Greg KLAZURA | 27.01.89 |
| 12 | LEE Young-py (SKo) | 23.04.77 |
| 16 | Johnny LEVERON (Hon) | 07.02.90 |
| 24 | Carlyle MITCHELL (T&T) | 08.08.87 |
| 40 | Andy O'BRIEN (Rol) | 29.06.79 |
| 4 | Alain ROCHAT (Swi) | 01.02.83 |
| 3 | Brad RUSIN | 05.09.86 |
| **MIDFIELDERS** | | |
| 36 | Bryce ALDERSON (Can) | 05.02.94 |
| 27 | Jun Marques DAVIDSON (Jap) | 07.06.83 |
| 14 | Daigo KOBAYASHI (Jap) | 19.02.83 |
| 28 | Gershon KOFFIE (Gha) | 25.08.91 |
| 31 | Russell TEIBERT (Can) | 22.12.92 |
| 13 | Nigel REO-COKER (Eng) | 14.05.84 |
| 8 | Matt WATSON | 01.01.85 |
| **FORWARDS** | | |
| 34 | Caleb CLARKE (Can) | 23.06.93 |
| 29 | Tom HEINEMANN | 23.04.87 |
| 26 | Corey HERTZOG | 01.08.90 |
| 19 | Erik HURTADO | 05.11.90 |
| 23 | Kekuta MANNEH (Gam) | 30.12.94 |
| 11 | Darren MATTOCKS (Jam) | 02.09.90 |
| 9 | Kenny MILLER (Sco) | 23.12.79 |
| 22 | PAULO JR (Bra) | 23.01.89 |
| 17 | Omar SALGADO | 10.09.93 |
| 7 | Camilo SANVEZZO (Bra) | 21.07.88 |
| **COACH** | | |
| | Martin RENNIE (Sco) | 22.05.75 |

World Soccer's GREAT TEAMS

# Brazil 1958

Inspired by Garrincha, Didi and a 17-year-old Pele, they won their country's first World Cup and introduced 4-2-4 to the world

Destiny...Brazil prepare to take on the hosts Sweden in the Final of the 1958 World Cup at the Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm

Having failed to win the World Cup on home soil in 1950, and then been shamed by the "Battle of Berne" in Switzerland four years later when they lost 4-2 to Hungary in an ill-tempered quarter-final, Brazil left nothing to chance ahead of the 1958 finals.

Their party in Sweden included a scout, a physical trainer, a dentist and even a psychologist, Joao Carvalhaes. However, coach Vicente Feola chose to ignore the advice of Carvalhaes, who had argued that Pele, the 17-year-old sensation from Santos, and anarchic winger Garrincha should be excluded from the squad on the grounds that they were too "infantile" to cope with high-pressure matches.

The pair missed Brazil's first two group games – a 3-0 win over Austria and a 0-0 draw with England – but both played in a 2-0 victory over the Soviet Union, when Garrincha tormented the Soviets.

Along with Didi – who would be judged the player of the tournament – and Pele, Garrincha was the star of a Brazil side that beat a Wales team missing the injured John Charles in the quarter-finals and then overcame France in the semis.

In the Final, in Stockholm, Sweden took an early lead before Brazil triumphed 5-2. Sweden were effectively killed off by Brazil's third goal, which was scored 10 minutes after the break. Collecting a high ball on the edge of the area, the teenage Pele hooked the ball over his head, whirled around and then volleyed home. WS

## THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

**Vicente Feola**

He retired from playing at 28 and led Sao Paulo to two Paulista titles, but was a surprise appointment as national coach in 1958. Seen as a safe pair of hands, his jovial appearance belied a serious mind. He later enjoyed success with Boca Juniors in Argentina before taking charge of his country again at the 1966 World Cup. He died in 1975.

**Tactics**

Brazil's 4-2-4 style had developed in the country's domestic game in the late 1940s and 1950s. The full-backs Djalma Santos and Nilton Santos (who were not related) attacked, while Zagallo was a winger who tracked back. Didi and Zito foraged in midfield, while Pele dropped back into the withdrawn position behind Vava. Defender Bellini was also happy to step up into midfield.

## THE STARTING XI

**Gilmar**
**Goalkeeper**
Corinthians stopper who would go on to enjoy success with Santos and win 94 caps.

**Djalma Santos**
**Right-back**
A regular at the 1954 finals, the Final was his only game in Sweden in 1958.

**Hilderaldo Bellini**
**Centre-half**
Captain and said to be the first man to lift the World Cup above his head after the trophy presentation.

**Orlando**
**Centre-half**
Formed a strong partnership with Bellini for club (Vasco da Gama) and country.

**Nilton Santos**
**Left-back**
Attacking defender who scored Brazil's third goal in the opening defeat of Austria.

**Didi**
**Midfielder**
Famous for his "falling leaf" (banana) free-kicks, he joined Real Madrid in 1959.

**Zito**
**Midfielder**
Defensive partner of Didi who spent his whole career with Santos.

**Garrincha**
**Right winger**
"The Little Bird" was a brilliant dribbler despite being born with bowed legs. Died in 1983.

**Pele**
**Forward**
Teenager who became a global sensation in Sweden, having made his Brazil debut at 16 a year earlier.

**Vava**
**Forward**
Centre-forward who scored twice in the 1958 Final and was also on target in the 1962 Final.

**Mario Zagallo**
**Left winger**
Nicknamed the "Little Ant" for his hard work on the flank, he coached Brazil at the 1970 World Cup.

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